



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

No. _____

RESOLUTION

R167 - 2021

Authorizes expenditure of funds to hire a consultant to conduct a disparity study and make recommendations on the City's procurement process inclusive of ensuring access by minority and women owned business.

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

WHEREAS, Allentown City Council appropriated money in its 46 Account which can be used for consulting; and

WHEREAS, Allentown City Council is desirous of reviewing their procurement process to ensure full access by minority and women owned businesses; and

WHEREAS, Disparity studies help large procuring entities understand whether and where there are differences in their utilization of minority- and women-owned businesses relative to their availability in the marketplace; and

WHEREAS, the 1989 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson* altered the landscape for minority- and woman-owned business programs, requiring that they meet a very high constitutional standard to be considered valid; and

WHEREAS, Allentown City Council finds it wise to have a third-party do a disparity study and make recommendations on our procurement process within all legal guidelines to ensure access of minority and women owned businesses in the City's procurement process; and

WHEREAS, Council is desirous of drafting an RFP inclusive of but not limited to reviewing and analyzing the city's contracting and procurement process from a historical perspective with an eye to making recommendations to expand the city's capacity to minority and women owned businesses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Allentown City Council authorizes the expenditure of such funds within the guidelines of the contracting process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the drafting and evaluating committee consist of two councilpersons, the Finance Director or designee, the Purchasing Director, the Public Works Director, and the City Clerk as an alternate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that City Council hereby approves the expenditure and authorization of the rfp process.