



Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion

Nina Harris, Acting Chairperson,
 Alexandria Wilson, Acting Executive Director
 100 West Randolph Street, Suite 14-300
 Chicago, IL 60601

NOTICE

Business Enterprise Council for Minorities, Females and Persons with Disabilities

CERTIFICATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Locations: John R. Thompson Center, Governor’s State University, Webex

MINUTES

APPROVED SEP 28 2023

I. Call Meeting to Order

- Subcommittee Chair Brazil called meeting to order at 1:35 PM
- In accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq.,

II. Roll Call of Council Members

- Roll call was conducted by Chief of Staff / Acting Secretary Robin Streets. Members present were Chair Alan Brazil (Chicago), Member Bola Delano (virtual), Member Tracy Sullivan (Governor’s State), Member Caronina Grimble (Springfield).
- A quorum of the public body was present.

BEP Council					
ATTENDANCE ROSTER: COUNCIL MEMBERS					
Members	Present				Absent
	In person Chicago	In person Springfield	In person Governor’s State	via WebEx	
Alan Brazil	x				
Bola Delano				x	
Andrew Johnson					x
Tracy Sullivan			x		
Caronina Grimble		x			

In accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120) and the Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140) the above meeting is open to the public.



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Agency Representatives

BEP Council				
ATTENDANCE ROSTER: Agency Representatives				
Agency	Representative	Present		
		In person - Chicago	In person - Springfield	via WebEx
Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion	Robin Streets			x
	Nikita Richards			x
	Hilaree Butler	x		
	Carlos Gutierrez	x		
	Tracey Kenney			x
	Nina Harris			x
	Alexandria Wilson			x

III. Approval of Minutes dated: May 9, 2023 (Action Item)

- Approval of May 9, 2023 BEP Certification Subcommittee minutes.
- Member Sullivan moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Member Delano. Motion passed by vote.

IV. Old Business

- None

V. New Business

A. Appeals

1. Palantir Net Inc. (Action Item)

- a. CEO, Tiffany Farriss was present.
 - a. She also serves as the President of the Board of Directors
- b. George DeMet was also present.
 - a. He is the Founder and Co-CEO of Palantir. He also serves as the Secretary of the Board of Directors.

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- c. Ms. Farriss provided an overview of the company.
 - d. Ms. Farriss states that she was the President at the time of incorporation in 2000. In 2017 she assumed the role and title of CEO.
 - e. In 2018, Mr. DeMet gifted his shares in the company to Ms. Farriss.
 - f. The company submitted their SBA application in 2020 and it was approved in October 2020.
 - g. This year the company applied for BEP Certification and received a notification of denial in May. In June, the company rectified the issues that were identified in the refusal letter and filed an appeal.
 - h. Ms. Farriss shared a Summary of Bylaws Changes:
 - a. Removed language saying only the Board can bind the Corporation.
 - b. Added language establishing the President can conduct business on behalf of the Corporation in absence of a quorum.
 - c. Established that the President shall make decisions on the Board's behalf when the Board is unable to make decisions due to a tie.
 - d. Added language establishing that the President has the sole authority to bind the Corporation.
 - i. The company has also revoked Mr. DeMet's bank signing card privileges.
 - j. Member Sullivan moved to overturn the appeal for consideration at the next Council Meeting. Member Delano seconded. Motion carries by vote.
2. Flourish & Thrives (*Action Item*)
- a. Owner, Juliana McMillan-Wilhoit was present.
 - b. Ms. McMillan-Wilhoit states that she is the majority owner with 51%, she also serves as COO.
 - c. Operating agreement was revised to clarify Ms. McMillan-Wilhoit's commanding role as the woman owner.
 - d. Ms. McMillan-Wilhoit addressed concerns with the initial certification:
 - a. In regard to her husband's (co-owner) potential to incur debt without her approval, she states that she maintains physical control of the checks in a locked box and all checks must pass through her. They have implemented a procedure through their online banking system that requires her approval for all payments initiated by her husband.
 - b. In the initial agreement, Ms. McMillan-Wilhoit was defined as the Chief Executive Member and her husband had the title of Chief Executive Officer within the company which created ambiguity. The updated agreement clarifies that Ms. McMillan-Wilhoit is the Chief Operating Officer, the highest title within the firm.

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- e. Member Delano requested that the most recent agreement is provided to Mr. Gutierrez.
- f. Member Delano made a motion to approve and submit to the Full Council. Seconded by Member Sullivan. Motion carries by vote.

VI. Public/Vendor Comment

None.

VII. Adjournment

- Member Sullivan moved to adjourn, seconded by Member Delano. Motion carried by vote.
- Chair Brazil adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

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