



Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion

Nina Harris, Chairperson
Alexandria Wilson, Executive Director
115 S LaSalle Street, Suite 4N
Chicago, IL 60603

APPROVED APR - 9 2025

NOTICE

Business Enterprise Council for Minorities, Females and Persons with Disabilities

CERTIFICATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, January 17, 2025

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

**Location: Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion 115 S. LaSalle Street, 4th Floor – Lincoln
Conference Room, Chicago, IL 60603**

Virtual: Webex Meeting

MINUTES

I. Call Meeting to Order

- Subcommittee Chair Alan Brazil called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.
- In accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., the Commission provided telephonic and video access to the meeting so that members of the public can monitor the meeting and has updated its website to keep the public fully apprised of the Commission activities relating to virtual participation.
- **Roll Call of Subcommittee Members**
 - BEP Deputy Director Latasha Binder conducted roll call.
 - Member Martinez moved to approve the remote participation of Member Arielle Johnson. Seconded by Member Delano. Motion passed by vote.
 - A quorum of the public body was present.

BEP Council				
ATTENDANCE ROSTER: COUNCIL MEMBERS				
Members	Present			Absent
	In person Chicago	In person Springfield	via WebEx	
Alan Brazil	x			
Bola Delano	x			
Andrew Johnson	x			
Jesse Martinez	x			
Arielle Johnson			x	



Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion

Nina Harris, Chairperson
 Alexandria Wilson, Executive Director
 115 S LaSalle Street, Suite 4N
 Chicago, IL 60603

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	Hilaree Butler			x
	Angela Phillips	x		
	Carlos Gutierrez			x
	Jacob Perez			x
	LaTasha Binder	x		
	Alexandria Wilson			x
	Robin Streets			x
	Andres Padua			x

II. Approval of Minutes: September 10, 2024 (Action)

- A. Member Martinez moved to approve minutes. Seconded by Member Delano. Motion carried by vote.

III. Old Business

A. Mischler Financial Group Certification Appeal (Action)

1. Dean A. Chamberlain and Michael Holmes (Administrator and Marketing) from Mischler Financial Group were present via Webex.
2. Certification Manager Carlos Gutierrez provided a background summary of the reason for denial.
 - a. Program eligibility based on the definition of Hispanic in the administrative rules. Mr. Chamberlin is of Spanish decent (Spain).
3. Member Andrew Johnson noted that the BEP Act provides a more expansive definition than the administrative rules.
4. Member Andrew Johnson added that many indigenous people of America were disenfranchised due to the conquest of the Americas by Spain.
5. Member Andrew Johnson requested that the application is voluntarily rescinded and based on ancestry and that Mr. Chamberlin reapplies as a service-disabled veteran owned business as he was injured while in service.
6. Mr. Chamberlin provided more information on his background and ensured Mischler has other MBE designations.

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.

**Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion**

Nina Harris, Chairperson
Alexandria Wilson, Executive Director
115 S LaSalle Street, Suite 4N
Chicago, IL 60603

7. Member Martinez moved to approve it the appeal. There was no second to the motion.
8. At 2:32 pm Chair Brazil announced that the subcommittee will move into a closed session to further discuss the appeal.
9. The subcommittee reconvened at 2:42pm. The subcommittee recommended the appeal be elevated to the Full BEP Council and discussed at the next council meeting scheduled for February 25th, 2025. The vendor was informed that the company must submit their request for a Full BEP Council review in writing to the Secretary.

IV. New Business**A. I3 Energy, LLC (Action)**

1. Sandra Blackwood, Founder & President, was in attendance for I3 Energy.
2. Certification Manager Carlos Gutierrez provided a background summary of the reason for denial, stating that that according to the Administrative Rules ownership must be real and substantial. The supporting documentation negates Ms. Sandra Blackwood's (51% ownership) control of the company as defined in the BEP Act as she has a loan from Mr. Staples.
3. The subcommittee suggested Ms. Blackwood get another loan to remove the control of the company from the lender.
4. Member Andrew Johnson motioned to uphold the denial. Seconded by Member Martinez. Motion was carried by vote.

B. Bassett Electrical Contracting (Action)

1. Mary Basset, President and 51% owner of Bassett Electrical was in attendance and shared that her original operating agreement from 2013 was updated in 2015 to include herself as 51% owner.
2. Certification Manager Carlos Gutierrez provided background information.
 - a. The supporting documentation submitted included the original 2013 operating agreement. Ms. Basset provided the updated agreement.
3. Member Martinez asked Ms. Bassett if Christopher Bassett was her husband, and it was confirmed that he does the electrical work, and the employees do the field work. Member Martinez expressed concern that Mr. Christopher Bassett is the experienced professional and Mrs. Bassett is not in full control.
4. Member Andrew Johnson motioned to sustain the denial. Seconded by Member Martinez. Motion carried by vote.

Chair Brazil informed Mary Bassett that she can request a Full Council Review, of this decision, submitted in writing to the Secretary.

C. Probari, Inc (Action)

1. Kathleen Unroe, the Founder, CEO and Chair of the Board of Probari Inc. was in attendance.

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.



Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion

Nina Harris, Chairperson
Alexandria Wilson, Executive Director
115 S LaSalle Street, Suite 4N
Chicago, IL 60603

- a. Certification Manager Carlos Gutierrez provided a background summary of the reason for denial. Control of the Board of Directors being the primary concern.
2. Ms. Unroe stated that the Board of Directors has only 3 people and she completed the application incorrectly by adding Russell Evans as a Board Member. Ms. Unroe clarified that Mr. Russell Evans is the COO of the company who is required to attend the Board meetings, however, Mr. Evans is not a voting member of the Board, nor is he authorized to make loans or large financial decisions without oversight and direction from the Owner/CEO.
3. Member Andrew Johnson motioned to approve the appeal. Seconded by Member Martinez. Motion carried by vote.

V. Public/Vendor Comment

- None.

VI. Adjournment

- A. Member Martinez moved to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Member Andrew Johnson. Motion carried by vote.
- B. Chair Brazil adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

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.