



Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion

Nina Harris, Chair
Alexandria Wilson Executive Director
115 S La Salle Street Suite 4N
Chicago IL 60603

APPROVED Aug 5 2026

NOTICE

Business Enterprise Council for Minorities, Females and Persons with Disabilities COMPLIANCE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

May 19, 2026

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

**Location: State of Illinois Building, 115 S. LaSalle St., 4th Fl., Lincoln Park Conference Room,
Chicago, IL 60603**

524 S 2nd St, CEI Executive Conference Room, Springfield, IL 62701

Virtual: Webex Meeting

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

- Chair Andrew Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.
 - i. 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 had updated its website to keep the public fully apprised of the Commission activities relating to virtual participation.
 - ii. Chair Johnson read Open Meetings Act requirements governing virtual participation, noting that virtual members may only vote or count toward quorum if they qualify under statutory exceptions (illness/disability, employment/business of the public body, family emergency, unexpected childcare obligations)."
- Roll Call of Subcommittee Members
 - i. Roll call was conducted by CEI Deputy Director, Jacob Perez.
 - ii. The Chair waited until 1:35 PM for additional members expected to attend, but quorum was not achieved.

BEP Council ATTENDANCE ROSTER: COUNCIL MEMBERS

Members	In person Chicago	In person Springfield	via WebEx	Absent
Alan Brazil	X			
Andrew Johnson	X			
Cory Gold				X
Arielle Johnson				X
Aundra Williams				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.

Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion

Nina Harris, Chair
Alexandria Wilson Executive Director
115 S La Salle Street Suite 4N
Chicago IL 60603

Members	In person Chicago	In person Springfield	via WebEx	Absent
Dr. Olivier Kamanzi	X			
Crystal Young			X	

BEP Council ATTENDANCE ROSTER: Agency Representatives

Agency	Representative	In person – Chicago	In person – Springfield	via WebEx
Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion	Alexandria Wilson			X
	Jacob Perez	X		
	Harry Reinhard			X
	Hilaree Butler	X		
	Angela Phillips			
	Serene Smith	X		

II. Approval of Minutes (*January 20, 2026*)

- Prior minutes were tabled because quorum was not achieved.

III. Ongoing Business

- A. BEP 20/20 Report – Harry Reinhard, BEP Compliance Manager
 - i. No awards over \$20M were issued since the last Compliance Subcommittee meeting. Eight solicitations over \$20M were identified since the last meeting. 7 of these 8 had BEP goals assigned. Only one solicitation lacked a BEP goal.
- B. BEP Goal Waiver Report – Included in Individual Exemption Report
 - i. Harry provided the fiscal year update:
 - 1. 111 waiver requests submitted year-to-date. 2 waivers approved. The remainder were denied or returned with corrective guidance.
- C. BEP Individual Contract Exemption Report – Harry Reinhard
 - i. 42 individual contract exemptions year-to-date. Some were partial goal reductions; many were standard exemption requests. Only one month remains in the fiscal year.
- D. FY25 Program Class Exemptions
 - i. Harry noted that these exemptions were reviewed previously and voted on by the full council. They will be reported to the CEI Office as required.

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, Chair
Alexandria Wilson Executive Director
115 S La Salle Street Suite 4N
Chicago IL 60603

E. FY26 Class Exemption Requests

- i. The committee reviewed FY26 class exemption requests to prepare recommendations for the full council's June 23 meeting.
 1. City Colleges of Chicago – Legal Services Class Exemption
 - a. City Colleges requested a class exemption for legal services (approximately \$850,000).
 - b. Committee discussion:
 - i. Members noted that many minority-owned law firms exist and should be considered.
 - ii. Chair Johnson expressed concern that exempting legal services broadly would exclude qualified BEP vendors.
 - iii. Without quorum, the committee informally leaned toward recommending denial of the exemption for purposes of the full council's review.
 2. CMS – 20 Small Business Set-Aside Class Exemptions
 - a. CMS submitted 20 class exemption requests; all tied to the Small Business Set-Aside Program (SBSA).
 - i. Harry explained:
 1. SBSA procurements are automatically BEP-goal exempt at the outset. If no SBSA bidders qualify or respond, the procurement is released to full competitive bid and BEP goals are set at that stage.
 2. Therefore, CMS' exemptions are consistent with statute and procurement practice.
 3. APO Ronaldo earlier clarified that all 20 exemptions are directly tied to NB/IGB-coded small business set-aside procurements.
 4. Harry explained if SBSA fails (no qualified small business bidders), procurement is re-bid with BEP goals.
 - ii. Committee options (informal, due to lack of quorum):
 1. Chair Johnson engaged in a longer clarification about options.
 2. Review and recommend approval/denial individually or Recommend rulemaking to permanently add SBSA procurements as

Illinois Commission on Equity and Inclusion

Nina Harris, Chair
Alexandria Wilson Executive Director
115 S La Salle Street Suite 4N
Chicago IL 60603

exemptions under Administrative Code Title 44,
Section 30.

3. Director Wilson clarified that option #2 (rulemaking) would require a full rule amendment process and would not take effect immediately.
4. Chair Johnson stated he was comfortable recommending blanket approval of all SBSA class exemptions.

F. Harry provided detailed instructions for reviewing FY26 compliance plans:

- i. Harry showed how Excel shared sheets can cause issues (split panes, display problems) and offered guidance by sharing the following:
 1. Instructions on viewing personal vs shared edits.
 2. Reference to two directories: Agencies and Universities.
 3. Importance of scrolling to see each member's review and decision.
 4. Members were also instructed on SharePoint file navigation, including adjusting zoom, freezing panes, viewing personal vs shared edits.
 5. Harry mentioned that members may see two versions of each plan due to agency resubmissions.
 6. A member reported difficulty accessing the documents, and Harry agreed to resend the link.
- ii. Harry pointed out that State Agencies' and Universities' Plans are available in SharePoint.
 1. Members must review and comment on all ten questions within each plan.
 2. CEI will send subcommittee comments back to the agencies for revisions.
 3. Members may see two versions of each plan due to required resubmissions.
 4. Policy statements for agencies and higher-ed institutions are available in SharePoint to support review.
 5. Deadline: Members committed to submitting all plan reviews by June 1, 2026, so they are ready for recommendation to the full council.

IV. Public Comment

- None.

V. Adjournment

- Chair Andrew Johnson adjourned the meeting and thanked members for attending.