

Minneapolis
City of Lakes
Department of Civil Rights
Velma J. Korbøl
Director

350 South 5th Street - Room 239
Minneapolis MN 55415-1314

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September 30, 2010

Anna Miranda
Equa Best Construction, LLC
Suite 201
301 East Lake Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55408

SENT VIA E-MAIL

RE: OP 7343 - Minneapolis Convention Center Project

Ms. Miranda:

The Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) has concluded its pre-award Small Underutilized Business Participation (SUBP) review related to Equa Best Construction, LLC for the OP 7343 Landscape Improvements project. We regret to inform you that MDCR will not be recommending Equa Best Construction for approval on this project.

As indicated in the bid documents, goals for the participation of certified Minority and Woman owned businesses (MBE/WBEs) were set at 7%MBE and 5%WBE. Our records indicate that the participation levels submitted by Equa Best Construction did not meet the established MBE/WBE goals. Therefore, MDCR was required to investigate what efforts were made prior to bid submission.

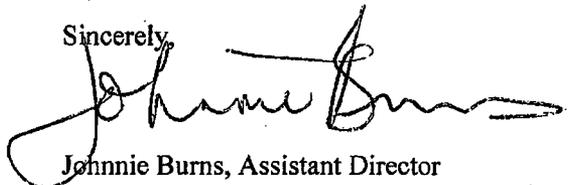
According to Chapter 423 of Minneapolis Code of Ordinances, bidders shall make and document every reasonable effort to include qualified firms owned by women and minority persons. The criteria for "good faith efforts" have been established by the City of Minneapolis and are documented in the bid specifications. MDCR has determined that your company did not engage in "good faith efforts" to contract with CERT certified MBE and WBE's prior to bid.

After careful examination of all documentation submitted by Equa Best Construction, it appears that your firm did not tailor your solicitations to CERT certified firms. In fact your firm specifically stated that you "contact firms we have previous work experience relationship and cost effect proposals..."Neither the initial documentation nor the follow-up documentation demonstrate the Equa Best Construction made reasonable efforts to afford the maximum feasible opportunity to certified MBE/WBE firms as required by the bid documents, Chapter 423, and 139.50(a)(6) of the Code of Ordinances.

For the reasons listed above MDCR will not recommend approval of Equa Best Construction, LLC for the Minneapolis Convention Center Landscape Improvement Project.

If you have any questions please contact me at 612-673-3076 or johnnie.burns@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Johnnie Burns, Assistant Director

cc: Bruce Gritters
Peggy O'Brien
Bob Swanson



www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us
Affirmative Action Employer

"BIDS FOR LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT" - Convention Center

Official Publication #7343
 Bids opened 10 AM, CDST
 September 9th, 2010
 Minneapolis MN

Lump Sum

\$ 440,000.-

529,995

260,043.7

Deduct Alternates:

1 Cedar Ridge Landscape

2 Artec Comp.

3 Equa Best Landscap

28,936.74

1 Improvements to Median A -

2 Adjusting Manhole Covers in Medians

3 Median Light Pole Improvements

1,038.40

2 Median Light Pole

3 Improvements

Integral Concrete Color in Median

3,658.-

4 Median

5 Unit Price for MNDOT 3877-C

CG w/a

48.- CG

13,500.01

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that the above bids were publicly opened and read aloud:

Heidi Smith

David J. Street

FOR THE FINANCE OFFICER

ASST. DIRECTOR, PURCHASING