

AA Administrator Says

Minority Contractors Work Pleases Airport Authority

By Gayle Hinson
Post Staff Writer

In continuing our search into minority contractors working at Douglas Municipal Airport we found that administrators working closely with the contractors are satisfied with the work being done.

Cindy Templin, affirmative action administrator for Day and Zimmerman the company in charge of managing construction at the airport, reported that work is being done competently.

"So far progress has been excellent," she said, adding, "we have had quite a few minorities to participate (in the work). We have had problems but any project has problems. Contractors are getting the work completed and staying within budget."

James K. Polk is president of Management Manpower Associates, Inc., which has a subcontract to assist with the implementation of the affirmative action program.

The firm's job is to identify minority contractors who are capable and interested in doing work at the airport.

Polk's close association with the minority contractors gives him an opportunity to observe the work. The project is going extremely well. It is coming in on time and on budget," he told.

Both Day and Zimmerman and Management Manpower Associates, Inc. used a Schedule A form to determine whether a company could be declared minority.

Schedule A is a form used to gather vital information concerning the ownership of a firm. Some questions asked are whether the organization is operating as an individual corporation, co-partnership or joint venture effort. Also information about race, sex and percentage of business owned must be provided. Race, sex and title of individuals responsible for day-to-day management and policy decision making must be determined. Copies of agreement of ownership options must be provided. These and other major questions are used to determine whether or not a business can be qualified as minority-owned.

According to Polk, once this information is collected it then goes into a data bank. If a prime contractor, the larger company responsible for the major construction projects, wants to use one of the minority firms as a subcontractor the information is then looked into more closely.

Polk says that N.C. has the finest minority enterprise record and that Charlotte is the first city in the U.S. to set up a minority-owned business bank.

Loans Available

For Future

Teachers

High school seniors in North Carolina need not rule out colleges in the fall if money is the only problem. Students with a good academic record who plan to teach in a specific course shortage area may apply for a scholarship loan from the State Department of Public Instruction's Prospective Teacher Scholarship Loan Fund.

The teaching shortage areas include math, physics, chemistry, agriculture, Latin, bilingual, exceptional children, mental, handicapped, speech and language impaired, special learning disabilities, seriously emotionally handicapped, severely profoundly handicapped, gifted and talented, visually handicapped, hearing impaired, special education, and vocational education, distributive education, industrial arts education, occupational exploration, health occupations, and trade and industrial education.

Application forms are available from the Division of Standards and Staff Development, State Department of Public Instruction, Education Building, Raleigh, N.C. 27611. Applications should be received before March 1 for priority consideration. Awards will be announced in early May.



James Polk

Manpower president says women business enterprise program by city ordinance.

Six to eight percent of each dollar awarded by the city goes to minority contractors. This has put a lot of dollars into black folk's pocket.

Management Manpower Associates, Inc. is only involved with construction firms at this time. We are actively looking for women and minorities to build roads and to do heavy

Second in a series

construction," he explained.

Polk started his business in 1969 and has worked for private industry, state and government agencies doing management and supervisory training.

But what about the charge that minority companies may not be what they say they are?

Ms. Templin talked about the company. Jones and Rowland Jones and Rowland submitted a Schedule A indicating that it was owned by Sam Jones.

"We talked to people who knew them and there was no reason to question the information on the Schedule A. As best we could tell they were legitimate," she told.

"Subsequent to that they were awarded the contract. Sam Jones was involved in daily operations, working with the employees, signing payroll checks. Until

the day he gave us a copy of his resignation they were a legitimate firm."

However, when Jones resigned the firm no longer could be classified minority.

"The moment we got his letter we went to the city attorney's office. The decision as to what would happen to Jones and Rowland was left to the city attorney," she explained.

"The attorney decided not to pursue the matter because the company's original intent was to be legitimate, they just never consummated the deal," she went on.

It was decided to let Rowland complete the work. About 80 percent of the work was already finished, before Jones resigned.

However, the company was removed from the approved list of minority business enterprises.

How will this affect future chances for minority companies hoping to join

the program?

"I don't know if it's going to make it any harder for them. We do the best we can with the information provided. People can put a lot on paper but how they perform is what counts," she reported.

Polk says he hopes the recent rash of publicity will make people aware of the

opportunities. "My hope is that on a positive basis more minority and female contractors now know that there are opportunities for them at the airport. Because they felt that they didn't have the wherewithal money, equipment, etc. they thought that they couldn't get involved," he said.

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