

George Wallace Seeks Measures To Strengthen M/WBE Program's Weak Areas

By Loretta Manago
Post Staff Writer

In the past few weeks articles have been written in an effort to explain the Minority-Women Business Enterprise program and to reevaluate its success in its initial year of operation. This week, which reflects the last of a series of articles, M-WBE coordinator George Wallace gives his assessment of the program and his insight into the future of the program.

"Overall I feel that the M-WBE plan has been a worthwhile program to get minorities and women businesspersons involved in the City's purchasing and construction projects. It's been a very instrumental tool," affirmed Wallace.

Wallace's positive outlook at the program darkened when he talked about the goal that the city set out to meet in the area of purchasing last year. "Although the City exceeded its goal of minority-women business involvement by two-tenths of a percent, it failed to reach one percent of its goal in purchasing. When the M-WBE plan was adopted by the City, a goal of 10 percent of minority-women business involvement in construction and 3 percent of minority women business involvement in purchasing was agreed upon."

Quite obviously, the area of purchasing has been one of the weakest areas of the M-WBE plan. Acting swiftly to this deficiency, Wallace stated that the City has hired a M-WBE director, Elizabeth Mills whose responsibility will be to monitor all of the purchasing agents to insure that they are making contact with minority and women businesses in the program. Before Ms. Mills was hired purchasing agents were only accountable to the "good faith" effort, now, however, they have to contact the newly hired director before they place a purchasing order.

Having taken this step Wallace hopes that another measure is taken to further strengthen the M-WBE plan. "What the City is now considering is asking for state legislation that will set aside a certain percentage of work for minority and women business," responded Wallace.

But the road in this direction is uncertain and has no guarantees. Wallace explained that a formal



George Wallace
...M-WBE coordinator

Third in series

request has to be made to state legislators and that the request has to be made no later than April 15. This request is only made if City council decides in favor of it.

With a new city council having recently taken office, many were not familiar with the M-WBE plan. Because of this, briefing sessions of the program and the goals it has accomplished have taken place to clarify any questions members of the City Council may have about the program. Wallace sees the new city council as a positive factor. "With a large number of women on the city council, I think, that once the program is fully understood, then the future of the program will have a favorable outcome and that the request for new legislation will be made," confirmed Wallace.

Anticipating that new state legislation will be formally requested by city council, Wallace implied that the next stumbling blocks could possibly be the recently elected state legislators. "When you have a change of officers, it becomes that much more difficult to try to predict

how they will view something like this. I would rather not guess," spoke Wallace.

Wallace does not have to figure out how minority and women business will respond to the proposed legislation. "I recently attended a Charlotte Business League retreat in Winston-Salem and one of the topics of discussion was the proposed legislation. They are definitely in favor of it and will be actively lobbying City Council to make the appropriate recommendations for it," stresses Wallace.

If this legislation does pass, it does not mean that minority and women businesses will have an advantage over other businesses. "Irregardless of the legislation, those businesses still have to be competitive. The City is still looking for competent, dedicated and efficient minority and women businesses. It doesn't give anyone an edge; it just makes sure that certain parts of the City's contracts will be awarded to M-WBE with the authority to subcontract whatever we want to subcontract out on a particular package," explained Wallace.

But until such legislation is passed Wallace stated the M-WBE plan will continue to operate on a good faith effort, requiring subcontractors and purchasing agents to include minority and women businesses in on bids and in on purchasing orders.



New officers were recently installed for the Dukes Social Club. Elected for new positions are: president, Jack T. Stovall; vice president, John Price; Leroy Polk, secretary; Lee Erwin, treasurer; John Carouthers, chaplain; Raymond Alexander, chairman of

Building and Grounds; Thomas Green, sergeant-at-arms; William McCombs, assistant secretary and Roy Williams, assistant treasurer. Clarence Rickett, James Brown and Charles Neal are the other members of the 39 year old organization.



At such a tender age, Aquanetta McKinney is already learning the joy of sharing. When she recently celebrated her birthday at Miss Ann's Daycare a few days earlier than scheduled she shared her cake and ice cream with her playmate, Gene whose birthday just happened to be that day. The daughter of Mr. and

Mrs. Herb McKinney, Aquanetta received a box of Valentine's candy and a Cabbage Patch coat to wear. When she's not celebrating her birthday, Aquanetta loves to watch TV, talk on the telephone to her favorite aunt, Tawanna.

Community Relations Committee Seeks Nominations For Award

Nominations are being sought for the sixth annual Police Community Relations Awards sponsored by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee. The awards recognize patrol officers from the Charlotte and Mecklenburg County Police Departments who have made outstanding contributions toward improving police community relations in their assigned patrol areas.

Officers will be judged on their involvement in helping the community understand the function of the police officer and the role of the citizen in that function; demonstration of extraordinary effort in the area of crime prevention; and involvement in aiding neighborhoods to handle their own problems.

Nominations may be made by fellow officers, superior officers, citizens in the patrol area, by groups or individuals. To nominate an officer, write to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations

Committee, 623 East Trade St., Suite 410, Charlotte, N.C. 28202 or call the Committee at 336-2424. The deadline for submitting a nomination is February 28.

All nominations will be reviewed by members of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee and personnel from the Charlotte and Mecklenburg County Police Departments. Five officers will be selected as recipients of the Police Community Relations Awards and honored at a ceremony in May during National Police Week.

HUNGRY?

Read "Who's Who In The Kitchen" and find a variety of tasty and fulfilling recipes to grace any table.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The City of Charlotte will receive bids for CENTRAL YARD LOT PAVING, Project Number 512-85-090, until 2:00 p.m. on the 20th day of March, 1985, in the fourth floor conference room of the Cameron-Brown Building, 301 South McDowell Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28204, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids are invited upon the several items and quantities of work as follows:

Asphalt Cement for Plant Mix - 114 TN

Bituminous Concrete Surface Course, Type I-1 - 1700 TN

Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file at the office of the City Engineer at 301 South McDowell Street, the local A.G.C. office, and the Dodge Plan Room.

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained by paying \$25.00 to the City of Charlotte for each set of documents obtained.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of the City of Charlotte, negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value), or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety, in an amount equal to five percent of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the Contract Documents must be paid on this project, and that the contractor must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or handicap.

Attention is also called to the fact that federal and/or state funds are partially funding this project. Only bidders who are eligible to do work for these agencies shall be eligible to bid on this project.

The City of Charlotte reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

Bids may be held by the City of Charlotte for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of the opening of bids for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the qualifications of bidders, prior to awarding of the Contract.

All Bidders are hereby notified that they must have proper licenses as required by State law at the time of submittal of bids.

Bidders are advised that this contract contains provisions requiring the Contractor to document that sufficient good faith efforts have been made to provide equal opportunity for Minority and Women Business Enterprises to participate in the subcontracting and material supplier opportunities available under this contract.

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