



Department Source: Economic Development

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: September 7, 2021

Re: Professional Services Agreement with Consultant Jim Whitt for Supplier Diversity Program Services

## Executive Summary

Pursuant to the City Manager's recommendation as outlined in the FY22 Budget document, staff has prepared a Professional Services Agreement for Consultant Jim Whitt to continue his work in developing a comprehensive program to assist disadvantaged business enterprises, including minority and women owned businesses, disabled veteran owned businesses, and businesses owned by LGBTQ individuals in the mid-Missouri region.

## Discussion

As identified last year in the FY21 Budget document, City management moved the Supplier Diversity Program from the City Manager's office to the Economic Development Department. The move to this department has proven very beneficial to the program as it provides great synergy with a team that is dedicated to bringing new businesses to our community, fostering entrepreneurship and growing startups, as well as maintaining a strong business ecosystem. It also helps to build closer working relationships with the Missouri Women's Business Center, the regional Small Business Administration office, and the University of Missouri Extension/Procurement Technical Assistance Center – all of which are located at REDI.

As the consultant, Jim will serve as a resource for business development and employment of socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. He will provide advocacy, oversight and administration of programs to assist, maintain and grow the number of companies listed in the CoMo Minority and Women Owned Business Directory, and encourage local businesses to utilize these companies in their procurement practices. Jim will also work with community partners to recommend best practices and develop a more robust program focused on reducing economic disparity for disadvantaged business enterprises and individuals so they may compete in government and private sector opportunities.

It is extremely important for long-term economic recovery to be inclusive of all segments of our business community. Accordingly, making Supplier Diversity an integral part of our ecosystem is a significant part of that success. The term of the agreement shall be completed by September 30, 2022, unless the Parties agree otherwise, in writing.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$55,000 annual agreement

Long-Term Impact: Enter the cost of proposed legislation to the city for years **beyond two**.



## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Resilient Economy, Secondary Impact: Inclusive Community, Tertiary Impact: Organizational Excellence

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Economic Development, Secondary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

## Legislative History

Date	Action
09/08/2020	R104-20 Authorizing an agreement for professional services with Jim Whitt, LLC for development of a comprehensive program to assist disadvantaged business enterprises.

## Suggested Council Action

Authorize the City Manager to execute the Professional Services Agreement with Consultant Jim Whitt for Supplier Diversity Program Services.