

SamTrans

CORRESPONDENCE

as of
December 20, 2019

From: Evita Thornton, SFAACC
To: hARTNETTY@Samtrans.com
Cc: [Fred Jordan](#); [Matthew Ajiake](#); [Board \(@samtrans.com\)](#); [Board \(@caltrain.com\)](#); [Carl Davis](#)
Subject: DBE Goals
Date: Thursday, December 19, 2019 4:38:24 PM
Attachments: [untitled](#)
[SMCTD DBE Goals 2019.pdf](#)

Dear Mr. Hartnett,

Please see the attached letter from Frederick Jordan, Chairman and Matthew Ajiake, President of the San Francisco African American Chamber regarding DBE goals.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

Evita Thornton
Admin. Director
San Francisco African American Chamber of Commerce
415-749-6400



www.SFAACC.org



SAN FRANCISCO AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Board

Frederick E. Jordan, PE
Chairman
F. E. Jordan Associates, Inc.

Dr. Caesar Churchwell, DDS
Vice Chairman
Churchwell & Associates

Matthew Ajiake, President
Sonika Corporation

Doug Parrish
1st Vice President
Reddipper, Inc.

Helena Jones Kim
2nd Vice President
Platinum Partners Inc.

Hyacinth C. Ahuruonye, CPA
Treasurer
HCA & Company

Danelle V. Tucker
Secretary
Emerge Financial Group

Board Members

Brigitte R. LeBlanc, MTA
LeBlanc and Associates, LLC

James McGhee
J.L.M. Management

Dr. Toye Moses
GlobalKonnnect & Co.

Linda Fadeke Richardson, President
ADR Continental Group

Myles C. Stevens, AIA, LA
Stevens + Associates Architect

December 19, 2019

Jim Hartnett, General Manager/CEO
San Mateo County Transit District
1250 San Carlos Avenue
San Carlos, CA 94070-1306

Re: DBE Goals

Dear Mr. Harnett:

The San Francisco African American Chamber of Commerce (SFAACC) and the Silicon Valley Black Chamber of Commerce (SVBCC) are writing you to express our disappointment about your agency's commitment to meeting your DBE goals. We are aware that your 14% DBE goals was reduced to 13.5% because you were not meeting that goal.

Your recent On-call Request for Proposals had no DBE goals, although we understand that your approach is to set these goals for each contract when you advertise them. We are not convinced that you would meet your DBE goals when your expectations of the contracting community are tantamount to a "do the best you can" approach.

As stakeholders of interest in your DBE fulfillment, we are concerned that your approach would continue to make it difficult for you to meet your agency goals and it continues to have adverse impacts on our constituents whose participation in your contracts—at least from our perspective at this time--have been abysmal. Further, we are unclear as to how you intend to meet your goals when your DBE requirements of prime contractors remains voluntary. In a sustainable development construct, we believe that what you do not quantify, you cannot measure and what you cannot measure becomes near impossible to report on or improve when there are gaps. We believe that your downward slide in DBE goals is indicative of these gaps.

We are therefore requesting a meeting with you to address our concerns as soon as your schedule permits as you have another RFP whose due date is January 8, 2020 for a five-year contract that continues to leave our constituents behind.

Sincerely,

Fredrick E. Jordan, P.E.
Chairman of the Board

Matthew Ajiake, PhD
President

Cc:

Copy emailed to: board@samtrans.com

Copy emailed to: board@caltrain.com