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STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

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Roy Romer
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER

MINORITY BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

WHEREAS, I appointed a Minority Business Opportunities Task Force ("Task Force") to consider appropriate options to maintain and expand economic opportunities for minority businesses;

WHEREAS, the Task Force delivered their final report to me on September 18, 1987, after having conducted numerous meetings and having considered extensive information presented and available to members of the Task Force;

WHEREAS, I have reviewed and considered the report and recommendations of the Task Force;

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado should be committed to creating equal business opportunities for minority businesses through public and private sector initiatives;

WHEREAS, minority businesses and the minority community should participate and be a part of the state's economic development programs and play a meaningful role in private and public economic development initiatives;

WHEREAS, minority businesses have historically participated at very low and disproportionate levels in the business activities of the state;

WHEREAS, minority groups constitute in excess of 17 percent of the population of the State of Colorado and yet presently account for less than 2 percent of the state's general procurement business; and

WHEREAS, it is good business for the State of Colorado to do business with minority businesses because minority businesses provide jobs in the private sector and provide employment opportunities to minority groups which impact the high minority unemployment rate in the State of Colorado;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Roy Romer, Governor of the State of Colorado, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the constitution and laws of the State of Colorado, DO HEREBY ORDER THAT:

1. A Minority Business Office is hereby created as an Office of the Governor to be located as part of the statewide economic development initiatives and administered within the Department of Local Affairs. The executive director of the Minority Business Office shall be appointed by and be accountable directly to the Governor. The office shall:
 - (a) Promote economic development for existing and new minority business enterprises in coordination with state economic development activities;
 - (b) Establish networks between majority and minority businesses in an effort to promote joint business activities;
 - (c) Promote minority business participation in state procurement, purchasing, and contracting in conjunction with the Department of Administration and the other departments of state government;
 - (d) Review on a regular basis the state's progress toward achieving its goals for minority participation in state business; and
 - (e) Work with the Minority Business Advisory Council, and the minority business community, and utilize the Minority Business Opportunities Task Force report of September 18, 1987, to promote minority business development.
2. The minority population of the State of Colorado is approximately 17 percent. Therefore, the state's ultimate goal for minority participation in state procurement shall be 17 percent of total dollars spent. The executive director of each department is directed to make significant and measurable progress toward achieving this goal in cooperation with the Department of Administration and the Minority Business Office. The executive director of each department shall designate one person within the department whose assignment shall be to act as the liaison between that department and the procurement section of the Department of Administration in support of this effort.
3. The Colorado Highway Commission has set a goal of 15 percent for minority business contracting on state highway projects. Since minority businesses in state highway contracting have a capacity that presents unique opportunities for minority businesses to participate in the business of the state, I am requesting that the highway commission examine the current goal of 15 percent and determine whether it should be increased so that minority businesses participate in state highway contracting at levels proportionate to the minority population of the State of Colorado.

4. An Office of Certification to certify legitimate minority businesses shall be located and administered as an office of the Governor in the Office of Regulatory Reform in the Department of Regulatory Agencies. The Department of Highways is requested to seek approval from the Federal Highway Administration to use the certification funding in the Department of Highways for the Office of Certification. The Office is also directed to work with the Department of Administration and the Department of Local Affairs to identify additional resources to expand the certification functions of the office to non-highway contracting. The Office of Certification is also directed to investigate and make recommendations on establishing the office as a cash funded office providing centralized certification services in the State of Colorado for the State, its political subdivisions, and other governmental entities which might wish to employ the services of the Office.
5. A Minority Business Advisory Council consisting of nine members of the minority business community shall be established. The functions of the Council shall be to review the operations and effectiveness of the Minority Business Office and the Certification Office, and make recommendations to the Governor concerning the offices, including recommendations and participation in efforts to obtain necessary funding for the offices.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this 10th day of December, 1987.



Roy Romer
Governor

