

Pima County Small Business Commission

**County Administration Building
130 W. Congress, 1st Floor
Thursday, October 16, 2008
3:00 P.M.**

Members Present

Lea Marquez-Peterson
Tom Ward
Pat Taviss
Ken Goodman
Jim Leader
Gerald Long

Others Present

Aurora Hernandez
Pat Cavanaugh

Members Absent

Greg Geile
Rigoberto Lopez

- The meeting was called to order by Lea Marquez Peterson at 3:00 P.M.
- Pledge was lead by Tom Ward.
- Introductions of members in attendance.
- Minutes from the last meeting were approved unanimously.
- **At large Commissioner Appointments** were discussed.
There are two (2) openings in District 2, Ramon Valadez' District, and one (1) in District 5, Richard Elias' district.

It was decided that Rigo Lopez be replaced due to lack of attendance, a letter will be sent to him.

The position of the chair has become available, Lisa Lovallo has resigned her position due to her new job with Cox Communications.

A recruitment letter will be sent to all the local chambers and to the acting commissioners for distribution. Anyone is interested in the Chair position is to e-mail Lea Marquez-Peterson, or Aurora Hernandez. Elections will be held at the November 20th meeting..

- **Disparity Study Findings-Lea Marquez-Peterson**

The disparity study was discussed and the consensus was that a stronger effort needs to be made to recruit more minority businesses. Many of the women business owners are not registering, and there seems to be an under utilization of other minorities as well.

It was discussed that the Procurement Director become a regular attendee of the SBC meetings; with no voting power, but as a team member with the ability to give input from the procurement point of view. . Lea will be making an appointment with the Procurement Director to discuss the disparity study, and possible attendance before the November 20th meeting.

- **JTED Annual Report- Ken Goodman and Jerry Long**

Ken Goodman gave a report on the JTED Program. The program seems to be coming together nicely. Last years enrollment was 12,000, now it's up to 18,000, with over 25,000 expected for next year. They're receiving great feedback from the kids and are now implementing more job shadowing and apprenticeship programs. The Culinary Arts program is now double from the original enrollment. They placed first in the local culinary competition. Reading and math scores are up 30% higher than students not enrolled in JTED.

The school districts are working on making it easier for business people to be able to teach in the schools. There are mandatory classes for JTED certification in addition to the regular teaching requirements. Ken states there is an open invitation for the SBC to tour the new facility and have a meeting there.

- **Tom Ward- Green Valley- Sahuarita**

Good economic news from Green Valley-Sahuarita, thirteen new businesses are opening in the month of October.

- **Future agenda items**

Lea discussed the possibility of having an appointee from the County Administrators' office, Development Services, Transportation, and Procurement departments to be regular attendees to the SBC meetings. That would open up communications with these departments and the SBC. Lea will follow up on this issue.

- **Call to the public**

- **Meeting was adjourned 4:45 P.M.**