



**OFFICE OF COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION**

**ADDRESS:** 2300 North Jog Rd  
West Palm Beach, FL 33411

**PHONE:** (561) 233-5311

**FAX:** (561) 656-7963

**E-MAIL:** [ocrnews@pbcgov.org](mailto:ocrnews@pbcgov.org)

**WEBSITE:** <http://pbcgov.com/ocr>

## Glades Technical Advisory Committee Minutes

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Meeting Title: Glades Technical Advisory Committee Meeting  
Facilitator: Houston Tate, Director  
Scribe (recorder): Audley G. Reid Jr., Senior Planner  
Date/Time: August 24, 2023, 2013 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM  
Location: City of South Bay

### Meeting Attendance: 15

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### Meeting Minutes

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#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

OCR Director Houston Tate convened the meeting at approximately 9:40 am. Mayor of South Bay Joe Kyles welcomed all GTAC participants to City Hall and to South Bay. The meeting commenced following the Invocation.

#### 2. Special Presentations

**PRESENTER 1:**

**Angela Smith: Senior Small Business Development Specialist with PBC Equal Business Opportunity on behalf of Director Tanya Davis-Johnson.**

The mission of OEBO statement is to foster the inclusion of minority and women-owned businesses in PBC's procurement process. We work to ensure that these small businesses obtain procurement opportunities as well as provide mentoring opportunities through collaboration with larger businesses that are part of the procurement process. We also provide access to tools and technical assistance for small businesses that engage with our office.

In 1991, PBC adopted an Minority and Women Business Enterprise program (MWBE) for minority and women businesses in response to a disparity study conducted in 1989 that concluded that there were discriminatory practices in the marketplace with respect to minority and women businesses vis-à-vis business-related interactions with the County.

When this particular program sunset, another study was conducted showing that there had been progress. In 2022, a race and gender-neutral program was implemented, meaning, all businesses could apply and engage with the program regardless of race or gender background. Another disparity study was conducted in 2017 and the study showed noticeable disparities across areas of the procurement industry vis a vis PBC. The current OEBO program is based on addressing the specific disparities found in the 2017 study.

If a PBC department engages in a contractual relationship with private businesses, these interests must be willing to engage with women and minority owned small businesses as part of their relationship with County departments.

All certified women and minority-owned businesses are listed on the OEBO on-line directory and updated daily. Other cities, including West Palm Beach, utilize the OEBO certification directory to gain information regarding small businesses in various fields.

The OEBO has strict vetting standards when deciding which small businesses are to be placed on the certification list and website. The vetting process and the information that is required prior to being listed on the directory can take up to 3 years.

The application for certification is free of charge; however, there is an expedited process that applicants can take advantage of for a \$300.00 fee. The application can be completed by paper or on-line.

September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, OEBO will host a “business matchmaker” event where government, vendors, and private agencies will attend in order to network, meet, and better understand the bidding process and how best to navigate engaging with PBC.

**Responses to Questions:**

You have to be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident in order to be certified with PBC.

August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, an event called The State of Black Businesses Drive In, at John Prince Park at 6 pm.

**PRESENTER 2:**

**Jamie Baker, Co-Founder, The Baker Foundation.**

My journey which led me to co-found a successful business started in the corporate world before transitioning to private banking. Personal development goes hand in hand with professional development. You cannot have one without the other.

For those who are interested in seeking assistance to navigate doing business with PBC, I, along with my colleagues at The Baker Foundation, would be happy to meet with you and talk about the issues and information that can be, admittedly, overwhelming.

Having a business plan, a sales plan, a marketing plan are key components in deciding which businesses and firms we engage with at The Baker Foundation, These components are absolutely critical to any successful business.

Comment from Director Tate: There is a need for local businesses to network. Many of our local businesses in the Glades are isolated.

Comment from Mayor Kyles: It is an excellent idea to bring businesses in the Glades together; however, we need these efforts to be continuous. A single event is, unfortunately, insufficient to establish sustained interaction and information sharing. Director Tate agreed. There must be sustainability.

Jamie Baker: We must leverage the tools that we have. Utilizing technology for specific aspects of your business life and work is important, ie. ChatGPT. If you are not using effective tools and your competitors are, you will be at a disadvantage.

In addition, having meeting events is important, however, attendees must be able to navigate asking questions, speaking with a variety of individuals and being able to listen and observe effectively in order for these events to truly assist in your efforts to start, maintain, and grow your business.

### 3. Participant Updates/Comments

PBC Office of Resilience announcement: O.R. will have a workshop on Sept. 31<sup>st</sup> focusing on a climate change risk assessment. It will take place in Pahokee. The representative encouraged everyone in attendance to feel free to take part in the Sept. 31<sup>st</sup> presentation.

### 4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 am.

Approved by: Houston L. Tate, Director \_\_\_\_\_