

**COMMITTEE OF BLIND VENDORS MEETING
OCTOBER 28, 2021
5:00 PM
VIA ZOOM**

ROLL CALL: Attendance was taken. A quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mac Carnes, Todd Freeman, Jerry Grimes, Larry Hall, Chair, Chris Miller, Justin Purvis, Cramer Schneider, and Todd Stephens

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lynn Florence, Vice Chair, Clyde “Buster” Mayne and Ronnie Wheatley

STAFF PRESENT: Corey Marcum, KBE Director, Janice Jackson, Administrative Assistant, Nanci Howard, Recording Administrative Assistant, Jason Wathen, Food Service Coordinator, Stuart Boggs, Vending Coordinator, Dondra Meredith, Deputy General Counsel, Education and Workforce Development Cabinet, and Cora McNabb, Executive Director of the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

VENDORS PRESENT: George Bouquet, Martin Caldwell and Charles Dorsey.

Governmental Services Administration (GSA)

Agreement: Modifications to the GSA permit was discussed among the committee. Modifications to the agreement include Covid-19 protocol and language added

to cover those who are subcontractors, which include Kentucky Business Enterprises (KBE) vendors and staff. Deputy General Counsel, Dondra Meredith, explained that these permits are ongoing and do not expire, but they can be terminated for violations of terms. It is strongly suggested, she continued, that vendors agree to the new agreement when renewing permits. If the new language and agreements are not signed, then KBE will be prohibited from engaging in new permits. The question of whether religious beliefs and certain health conditions could be exempt was asked. Ms. Meredith said that was being explored. Vendor committee member, Todd Stephens, proposed the question of whether the agreement extends to personal drivers as well. Ms. Meredith said it was if they enter the GSA facility. This agreement only applies to those attached to the contract which includes contract employees and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and not Coke or other delivery persons. This agreement applies only to federal properties, not state controlled properties.

MOTION: Todd Stephens made the motion that the committee accept the modified agreement. Justin Purvis seconded. A vote was taken.

Those voting “YES” were Jerry Grimes, Chris Miller, Justin Purvis, Cramer Schneider, Todd Stephens, Larry Hall and Mac Carnes.

Voting “No” was Todd Freeman.

The motion passed with seven members voting yes and one voting no.

MODIFIED VENDOR AGREEMENTS:

The next order of business was to discuss language added to the binding, modified, vendor agreements. It was explained that the vendor agreement would include language that a vendor participating in a federal facility would have more of an active presence in their business. Further discussion regarding quality control of operations was held. Cramer Schneider stated he does not recall ever receiving a vendor agreement, nor had Justin Purvis. KBE staff agreed to investigate this further.

Concerns about KBE vendors taking on a more active role in their business were expressed. After much discussion, a motion was made by Todd Stephens stating a vendor running a federal facility should have a more active presence in their business going forward. Justin Purvis, second. A vote was taken.

Voting “Yes” were Larry Hall, Todd Freeman, Jerry Grimes, Chris Miller, Justin Purvis, Cramer Schneider, and Todd Stephens.

Mac Carnes voted “No”

The motion passed with seven “yes” votes and one ‘no’.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Vendor, Martin Caldwell, expressed his concern over the contracts with military

facilities and asked if they mirrored the private industry. Dondra Meredith explained that they do not. He continued to express concern and asked that the committee use caution when discussing language pertaining to the permits and also about requiring vendors to be onsite at those locations. Discussion was held about these items.

ADJOURNMENT: Todd Freeman made a motion to adjourn. Jerry Grimes seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 pm.