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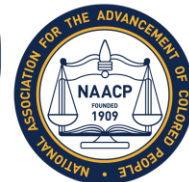
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WORCESTER NAACP
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE



April 21, 2016

Dear Members of the Worcester City Council.

The Worcester Branch of the NAACP voted at our March general membership meeting to support the recommendations presented by the WCLC for inclusion into the present draft we have seen that is expected to be voted on at the April 26 city council meeting.

The two main components were first were the administration's goals for permanent full-time jobs. The percentages that were listed for the TIF proposal for Worcester residents were 10% minority, 5% women and 15% low-income. With over a third of Worcester's population being people of color and women being the majority of our population we found these goals to be unacceptable.

We are supporting the WCLC's recommendations for 50% women, 33% people of color and 35% of low-income residents. We understand that the administration has communicated to representatives of the WCLC that the new diversity officer would look at and adjust these numbers in the future. However, we feel that such changes should be voted into this TIF proposal when it is voted on. The reality is that TIF or no TIF, these numbers should have been updated after the last census report.

We also support the WCLC's recommendation that the city match the DCAMM's requirement that of 6.9% of work hours on construction jobs be completed by women and 15.3% completed by people of color. The administration's recommendation calls for contractors to use best efforts to achieve a workforce of 50% Worcester residents but with the unacceptable numbers of 10% minority and 5% women.

The NAACP also voted to support language for the TIF that it be "required" for employers to reach the employment statistical goals that we support, rather than just a best efforts.

We support that there be a waiver that the applicant can apply for if not able to reach the stated objectives.

Sincerely,

Leonard Cooper
3rd Vice President, Economic Development Chair
Worcester NAACP