



Minority Development & Empowerment, Inc.
5225 NW 33rd Avenue ■ Bldg. 5, Suite 5225 ■ Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
Phone: (954) 315-4530 ■ Fax: (954) 763-8567
www.mdeinc.org

August 19, 2012

Honorable John P. "Jack" Seiler
Mayor
City of Fort Lauderdale
100 N. Andrews Ave.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

ALL
COMMISSIONERS
RECEIVED

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Phoebe R. Francois, Esq.
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17th Judicial Circuit of Florida

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Palm Beach County

Izett Scott
Associated General
Contractors, South Florida
Chapter

STAFF
Francois Leconte
President/CEO

Dear Mayor Seiler:

On Tuesday, August 14th, an unexpected vehicle malfunction caused the late submission of Minority Development and Empowerment, Inc.'s grant proposal for continued funding under the City of Fort Lauderdale's Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS program. The malfunction, a failure of the electrical system of the car carrying the document, caused the staff to be unable to open the doors, resulting in the proposal being submitted 2 minutes (120 seconds) late.

Minority Development and Empowerment, Inc. (MDE) fills a unique niche providing services to the Caribbean community of Broward County. Since 2008, MDE has provided HOPWA supportive services to more than 440 clients identified through our close ties to service organizations and the faith-based community. Our clients are disenfranchised, unfamiliar with the social services system and disconnected due to language, culture, and/or the isolation and fear many face when they are living with HIV/AIDS. These clients would not have accessed HOPWA-related services through any other agency

We are respectfully requesting that the application process be reopened to permit our submission. MDE has had no additional time to prepare the proposal as the sealed boxes have been in the custody of the Procurement Services Division of the City of Fort Lauderdale since 2:02pm on August 14th. It is our understanding that the City Commission has shown leniency in the past and we are requesting a similar consideration.

We thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Francois Leconte
President and Chief Executive Officer

- cc: Commissioner Bruce G. Roberts, District 1
- Commissioner Charlotte. Rodstrom, District 2
- Commissioner Bobby B. DuBose, District 3
- Commissioner Romney Rogers, District 4

An Equal Opportunity Agency

Minority Development & Empowerment, Inc. is South Florida's premier, non-profit organization that serves the Caribbean community; facilitating self-sufficiency and empowerment by offering, to youth and families, social service programs, access to health care and economic development.



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
VENDOR'S RECEIPT**

BID NUMBER 823-11034

RECEIVED Dr. M. Mowbray

*Development
& Empowerment*

Recd @ 2:02 PM/EAZ



August 9, 2012

Mr. Francois Leconte
Chief Executive Director and President
Minority Development and Empowerment, Inc.
5225 NW 33rd Ave.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Dear Mr. Leconte,

It is with great pleasure that we write this letter of recommendation in support of Minority Development and Empowerment, Inc.'s (MDE) grant submission for continued Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) funding. Since 1996, MDE has provided a wide variety of educational, health, prosperity and social services, including HOPWA, to the people of Broward County and our city.

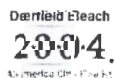
As MDE seeks to renew this grant that provides essential services including permanent and transitional housing, emergency rent assistance, payment of utilities and moving expenses and other support services for people living with HIV/AIDS we wish them success and look forward to working closely with them in our community.

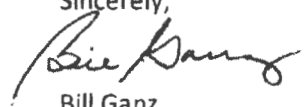
Mayor
Peggy Noland

Vice Mayor
Bill Ganz

Commissioners
Joseph P. Miller
Martin Popelsky
Ben Preston

City Manager
Burgess Hanson



Sincerely,

Bill Ganz
Vice Mayor, City of Deerfield Beach

8/15/12 (G)



City of Wilton Manors

2020 Wilton Drive • Wilton Manors, Florida 33305 • (954) 390-2100 • FAX (954) 390-2199

Gary Resnick
Mayor

August 2, 2012

Tom Green
Vice Mayor

Mr. Francois Leconte
Chief Executive Director and President
Minority Development and Empowerment, Inc.
5225 NW 33rd Ave.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Julie A. Carson
Commissioner

Ted Galatis
Commissioner

Dear Mr. Leconte:

Scott Newton
Commissioner

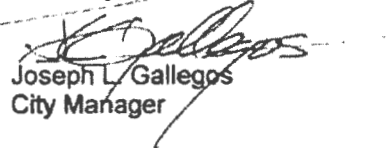
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Joseph L. Gallegos
City Manager

Kerry Fzrol
City Attorney

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Sincerely,


Joseph L. Gallegos
City Manager

cc: Mayor and Commission