

Sammie Davis Jr. 716-235-0290  
 Davis & Bartholomew Lead Inspections  
 134 Newburgh Ave  
 Buffalo, NY 14211

MBE/WBE

May 16, 2012

Mr. Charley H. Fisher III  
 Legislative Assistant  
 92 Franklin St.  
 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Buffalo, NY 14202

*Dear Mr. Fisher: Thank you for taking time to speak with after the meeting on Tuesday. I'm a minority businessman in the city of Buffalo. I'm also certified with the Joint City and County MWBE and have been since August of last year. I have been in business over two years and have not gotten any business from any of the contractors that are doing business with the County. I'm the only black person male or female that has a lead inspection business in the city, I have talked with the other lead inspections companies about letting me do some subcontracting work and, I was told by one of them that the I could work for them for \$8.00 per hour and, she was not interested in teaming up with me. I was told by another one that if I work with her I would take her business. Both of these businesses are on the Joint City and County MWBE. Also I'm a veteran of the Vietnam era I served my country for 13 years. I'm unemployed with my unemployment coming to an end this week. I have four EPA certification, a graduate of University of Buffalo School of Management for Entrepreneurial Leadership, and my business will be certified as a Veteran owned business with in the next 30 days. It's not like I don't have any skills or intelligent to do the work certain people don't want to see blacks be successful in Buffalo. In 2010 I applied 3 times for a loan at the ECIDA and was turned down. The first time was a contest, 10 businesses were competing and they said that my business was not what they were looking for. Beth Okeefe told me that I could apply for the express loan, was turned down this time because they said that my type business would not be able to repay the loan. The next time I applied was through a special program that the County had if you*

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*located your business out side to the city limits. I was encouraged each time by the Veteran office at Buff State SBA. The person that I was referred to this time work for the county, her name is Tracey Mcnerrey . When she sent me the application and when I saw the name on it I knew it was a wastet of my time and money, I was turned down for the third time. Each time I applied I had to pay \$30.00 application fee to check my credit. I checked my own credit and they never inquired not one time according to all there bureaus. I feel that they were using me as window dressing to show on paper that they did let a minority apply for the loans to make them self look good. I have enclosed a letter that I wrote to the US Assistant Secretary for Economic Development Mr. John Fernandez only to find out that he don't have any control over them. Buffalo is a blessed City we just have to get a few people to do the right thing so everyone will be blessed and not just a certain group. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. Thanking you in advance for your time.*

  
Sammie Davis Jr.

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134n Newburgh Ave  
Buffalo, NYE 14211

May 24, 2010

Mr. John Fernandez  
U S Assistant Secretary for Economic Development  
Economic Development Administration  
104 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington DC 20230

Dear Sir: Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Deacon Sammie Davis Jr. I am a member of Bethesda World Harvest International Church here in Buffalo. As you know Buffalo in the poorest city in the United States and I am a unemployed "Black" US Army veteran that has started my own small business in the field of Lead Inspection here in Buffalo. According to the SBA office in Albany I am the only "Black" owned lead inspection business in Erie county and only the third in the State of New York.

My business plan was but together by John McKeone at Buffalo State University of New York. Mr. McKeone had a meeting with the local office of Economic Development in the later part of 2009 and they had grant money for minority entrepreneurs and he thought I would make a good Cana date for the grant of \$50,000 because I was the only business of it kind and, the City of Buffalo had posted a letter on their website asking for lead inspector and risk assessors because they were gearing up for some major work here in Buffalo and nation wide because of the problem with lead poison.

HUD has give the city Municipal Housing Authority \$14,311,494  
Belmont Housing has two grants \$71,966 and \$1,150,970  
Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency \$4,331,494  
Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency \$6,594,081  
Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency \$5,749,181

Needless to say I didn't get the grant. Their reason was that my business was not competitive with any of the other business that they were looking at, this was told to me in the later part of March by Ms. Beth Okeefe. She said that I could apply for Patriot Express loan which has a limit of \$35,000 I did that and, last week I was told that I was turned down because "lack of reasonable assurance that the business can be operated at a rate of profit sufficient to repay the proposed loan an other obligations from the projected earnings. That is a lie, they never looked at my plan HUD set the price that I can charge

for an inspection at \$450.00 per house and the city of Buffalo Housing Authority has 146,00 of section 8 housing and apartment. As a minority contractor I would have no competition for work. I have spoke with the proper persons at Belmont Housing and the City Municipal Housing Authority and, the Urban Renewal they said to bring them my price list and go to work. Also in my business plan is the projection of the business from the stand point of the EPA and HUD. The new law states that any home built before 1978 must be inspected for lead before it is sold or rented, this will bring my business to and over flow because not only will I be doing a surface by surface inspection I will also have to do a clearance inspection which I will be paid \$200.00. April 22, 2010 should have been the dead line for all contractors to take the EPA certification class but they are backed up, the fine for not taking this course is \$32,000. My plan was to hire two other people to work with me but with the increase in home repair and painting I will need to hire four. My first year projection for earning were \$84,000 with only me doing the work just think what my income would be with four others. At the place where I got my certification from they have five inspectors and one of the instructors told me that he is also their supervisor and each one has to complete three inspection per day, that is \$30,000 per week.

I would like for your office to look in to what the problem is here in Buffalo, it seem like they only care about big business like GM they gave them \$427 millions this month and I cant get a \$50,000 grant or a \$35,000 loan. I moved to Buffalo from Alabama in 2006 and the way this Buffalo office is doing business is like back in the day when the banks would not give a black man a business loan but they would finance him a new car. Another Deacon at my Church was also turned down for the same reason and he has invested \$40,000 into his business his name is Sherman Washington he will be writing you also. If your office cant do any thing about this problem we are having we will take it to the US Justice Department to let them find out what the problem is. I can be reached a 716-235-0290 any time.

Thanking you in advance

Sammie Davis Jr.