

THE BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF WESTERN NEW YORK, INC.

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December 15, 2022

April Baskin, Chairwoman
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Chairwoman Baskin,

We are writing you this letter regarding the upcoming construction of the new Buffalo Bills stadium and we have some issues we believe will make this project the gold standard for Minority & Women-owned Business Enterprise ("MWBE") utilization.

A key component to successful MWBE utilization is proper data collection and record keeping. We understand the complex nature of both of the monitoring tools, especially across the various facets of a large, public construction project that has separate MWBE requirements for workforce, sub-contractors, supplies, and other areas. To this end, we are strongly advocating for an independent MWBE compliance officer to ensure the New Stadium project effectively meets its goals in an honest, transparent fashion. This will only help build and strengthen local government's reputation on being an earnest partner in wanting to truly diversify our local MWBE construction company pool.

We have seen the benefits of a independent MWBE compliance officer in previous large-scale projects, first with the Buffalo Joint Schools Construction, an over \$1 billion project, and the Northland Workforce Training Center, a \$65 million project. The New Stadium project will be funded with \$850 million of State and County dollars and therefore should follow the same model for MWBE compliance as the Buffalo Joint Schools Construction and Northland Workforce Training Center projects.

We must see a transparent process that routinely shares compliance information and we believe a local MWBE compliance officer will best be able to implement such a process. If the Developer of the New Stadium project hires a MWBE compliance firm from out of town, we are expecting the following contingencies:

1. Bi-weekly or monthly compliance reports that provide information on workforce diversity, MWBE supplier utilization, and overall MWBE (prime and sub-contractor) utilization. Such reports must be easily accessible to the public.
2. The MWBE Compliance Officer/Firm must utilize a locally-based MWBE compliance consultant of a diverse background to assist the MWBE Compliance Officer on their implementation plan.

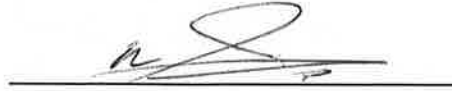
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Thank you for your attention to these requests. It is vital to the success of this project that MWBE utilization be given the utmost prioritization and the proper resources to ensure compliance is effective and transparent.

Sincerely,



Thomas Beauford, President
Buffalo Urban League



Reverend James A. Lewis, III, President
National Action Network – Buffalo Chapter



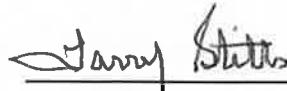
Pastor Tim Brown, President
Baptist Ministers Conference of Buffalo &
Vicinity



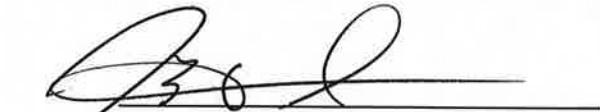
Reverend Michael Badger, Chair
Buffalo Urban Think Tank



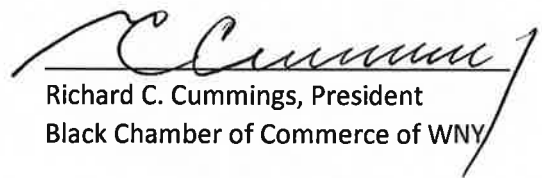
Stephen Tucker, President & CEO
Northland Workforce Training Center



Larry Stitts
Jefferson Avenue Business Association



Frank Daniels, Founder
WNY Contractors Guild



Richard C. Cummings, President
Black Chamber of Commerce of WNY



Reverend Mark Blue, Chair
NAACP – Buffalo Chapter