

Houston Small Business Advisory Committee Minutes

December 17, 2008

FISCAL YEAR 2009 PRIORITIES

Provide input on TCEQ rules and policies to represent small businesses and strengthen partnerships with local elected officials.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – Co-chair J Kelly Mowry welcomed members and guest and presided over the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 10:15 AM. Each of the participant introduced themselves and business/organization they represented.

REVIEW ACTIONS ITEMS FROM June 18, 2008 MEETING Small Business Development Centers (SBDC)- Article written however is still on hold pending review by SBDC staff. When approved the article will be placed in a future issue of the Advocate newsletter.

Special Guest- Donna Phillips, Regional Director TCEQ, Region 12 – The Region is still expending a large amount of resources on Hurricane Ike issues. She also spoke of the challenges faced by the proposed requirement for water and sewer service provider to insure their facilities operate during an extended power outage (SB 361).

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT- Environmental Crimes Legislation- Jack Holmes

No report made due to absence of Mr. Holmes. Subcommittee will continue to review this issue, track any legislation, and provide update to the SBAC.

LOCAL PROGRAM UPDATE- The City of Pasadena (Ms Sarah Metzger) and Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services (HCPHES) (Marilyn Christian) stated that each of their programs are in a post Hurricane Ike mode to include storm debris cleanup and restoring infrastructure damaged by the storm.

AUSTIN UPDATE: Clarence Gray updated the SBAC on staff changes. Brian Christian is now Division Manager of the Small Business Environmental Assistance (SBEA) Division. A section manager for the Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) has yet to be named. Joy Schultz is acting manager.

RECAP ACTION ITEMS AND CLOSING REMARKS: Given by Co-Chair Kelly Mowry. He want to poll membership and compile stories of how the Hurricane impacted their businesses. He hopes this information will help with future disaster preparedness. Ken Legler thought that the Compliance Advisory Panel (CAP) could/should issues a disaster preparedness guidance document for small businesses. SBLGA Houston staff will develop a survey document and disseminate to members.

Ken Legler will assume his State Representative seat in January 2009. He has resigned from the Small Business Compliance Advisory Panel (CAP).

The meeting ended with a Christmas celebration of food and fellowship.

The Houston SBAC will continue to track legislative actions affecting small businesses and local governments.

See www.sblga.info to find a full list of compliance tools or <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/sblga/sbac.html> for membership lists, meeting dates and directions.

Next SBAC Meeting: Wednesday, March 18, 2009