

Houston Small Business Advisory Committee

Draft Minutes

September 19, 2007

FISCAL YEAR 2008 PRIORITIES

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – J. Kelly Mowry called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM., and thanked Patricia Eldridge for hosting the meeting at the Printing Industries of the Gulf Coast , for providing refreshments, and affording us an opportunity to tour the museum.

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES REGULATIONS – SB 12654 (Action item from March 1 / May 24 Meetings) - Dolly Arons, Jack Holmes and Ray Schaefer to map out a strategy and find a sponsor to clarify the wording in SB 1265 from the 78th Regular Session.

ACTION ITEM # 1 - Clarence Gray to set up a conference call to include Kelly, Roger Haseman, Dolly, Jack and Ray and report by next meeting.

MINOR SOURCE RULE (Action item from May 24 Meeting) – In response to a request from the SBAC, Clarence Gray contacted several small businesses to include Dry Cleaners, Metal Finishers, Foundries, Hotels and Medical Centers for the purpose of gauging their interest in forming a work group to study exempting their thermal devices (boilers, heaters, etc), as is currently the case with Independent School Districts. Determined that currently there is not a need to create a small group to review the rule since most of those talked with don't trigger the threshold.

COMPLETED

LOCAL PROGRAM INIATIVES FOR FY 08 – Clarence Gray received information from Karl Pepple that the CITY OF HOUSTON has (1) a new Air Pollution Registration Fee, a copy of the letter that was sent to facilities was distributed along with a list of facilities that will be impacted; and (2) Municipal Settings Designation. HARRIS COUNTY will focus some of their attention on users of air curtain incinerators. Other issues will be handled on a complaint basis. GALVESTON COUNTY Health District will focus is on storm water MS4. Other issues will be handled on a complaint basis. CITY OF PASADENA – Luz Locke provided their 08 initiatives which include storm water inspections, and apartment complexes and restaurants 'grease trap' training.

ACTION ITEM # 2 – Clarence Gray will send out information regarding the City of Houston's Municipal Settings Designation (MSD).

Complete. Ordinance passed by City which allows individual businesses the opportunity to request City Council allow a MSD to facilitate a less costly cleanup of contamination. Ordinance number provided to members.

ACTION ITEM # 3 – Clarence Gray to contact all Auto Trade Associations, Dry Cleaner Trade Associations. Ken Legler agreed to provide a list of other trade associations for facilities affected by the City of Houston's new Air Pollution Registration Fee. A list of TCEQ contacts will also be generated.

TCEQ REGION 12 UPDATE – Donna Phillips announced changes that could have some impact, on small businesses. In general terms she expected field operations to continue working with small business to achieve compliance and that SBLGA has played a key role. Specifically she mentioned that some focus would be place on drycleaners given State (DCRP) and Federal (NESHAP) interest.

Chairman White has left after 6 years of service. H.S. Buddy Garcia has been appointed the new Chairman leaving his slot open for a new Commissioner. John Sadler is the new Deputy Director for Office of Compliance and Enforcement replacing John Steib who now heads the Office of Administrative Services. In the Houston Regional Office, Marsha Hill is the assistant Director. Ms Phillips noted that this is the first time in history that the Region 12 management team are all products of field operations. The Region is using Risk Based Investigations (RBIS) strategy.

TAKE CARE OF TEXAS CAMPAIGN UPDATE – Clarence Gray reminded everyone of the Take Care of Texas Campaign and referred them to www.takecareoftexas.com for more information. He also solicited the SBAC support for the Texas Environmental Excellence Award Program. Deadline for submission of applications is October 19th.

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE PANEL (CAP) UPDATE – Ken Legler reported that there are some problems at the National CAP level due to lack of leadership at the Ombudsman position. There is a possibility they may disband the program. Mr. Legler has asked for 550 million to help small business issues to be taken from enforcement funds. Kelly Mowry expressed an interest in helping. Mr. Legler provided an update from the August 24th CAP meeting – issues with new compliance history rating will be addressed when the new commissioner comes on board; TERP- solicited the SBAC's help to get the word out about the large amount of money available for purchase and retrofits i.e. forklifts; EnviroMentors – believe these folks can help with TERP; RBIS- questions posed to John Sadler about small business concerns ; Toxins- areas near Lynchburg Ferry area appear critical (Donna Phillips said the region is looking into this also).

AUSTIN UPDATE – Clarence Gray offered an apology for Brian Christian's absence. Mr. Christian is hopeful that he can attend the December meeting. SBLGA team training this week with program area staff regarding TERP, LIRAP. SBLGA will determine our role in regards to these important issues. A recent release by the EPA on a proposed paint regulation was handed out.
COMPLETED: Clarence provided a final list of bills that passed

APPRECIATION – J. Kelly Mowry presented a framed Certificate of Appreciation to Patricia Eldridge for hosting this month's SBAC meeting and providing us with a tour of the museum.

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

Next SBAC Meeting: December 20, 2007