

TALKING POINTS
Fix the City Ordinance – Include Asian Americans

Main Issue: Economic Development Committee should release legislative amendment **PO2007-523** from committee

Aldermen should support fixing the minority- and women-owned business enterprise public contracting ordinance so that Asian Americans are a presumptive minority group

City Council should vote to include Asian Americans as presumptive minority group ASAP

Rationale:

- Although originally opposed to the inclusion of Asian American contractors, City expert and drafter of 2004 City Ordinance, Colette Holt, recently testified that new evidence of discrimination against Asian American contractors justifies inclusion as a presumptive minority group.
- Since 2004, there have been at least three quantitative studies documenting discrimination against Asian American contractors.¹ When Cook County failed to have an M/WBE ordinance, zero dollars went to Asian American contractors.
- Asian American contractors are harmed by this confusion: federal, state, and county programs include them, but general contractors try to exclude Asian American contractors from all programs.
- The Ordinance sunsets in 2009. A well-grounded study must be done, inclusive of all minority groups, but Asian American should be included as a presumptive group immediately.
- The Procurement Office must reinstitute the Affirmative Action Committee to ensure input from key stakeholders

¹ National Economic Research Associates, Inc., J. Wainwright (Jan. 2007); Review of Compelling Evidence of Discrimination against Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises, C. Holt (June 2006); Demonstration of Minority Disadvantage when Minority Populations are Small, R. Ray, et. al. (July 2005).