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THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA HOSTS FORUMS TO DISCUSS CONTRACTING EQUITY

Griffin & Strong, P.C. is conducting a series of public hearings across the state of North Carolina to gather comments from the business community, organizations, advocates, and the general public about public contracting procedures and opportunities for small businesses across North Carolina.

The State of North Carolina Department of Administration's Office of Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) has engaged Griffin & Strong, P.C to conduct a disparity study on the availability and utilization of minority, women owned business enterprises and North Carolina historically underutilized businesses. This study will examine relevant evidence of race- or gender-based discrimination in contracting.

Beginning September 30th, the business community and people of all races, backgrounds and experiences are invited to provide input on ways the state of North Carolina can improve in its contracting process. These (4) meetings will be held over a 3-day period in the following locations across the state:

Monday, September 30th, 2019 6:00PM-7:30PM Greensboro Coliseum Special Events Center Meeting Room 3 1921 West Gate City Blvd. Greensboro, NC 27403

Tuesday, October 1st, 2019 6:00PM-7:30PM Wake Technical Community College Southern Wake Campus 9101 Fayetteville Road, Raleigh, NC, 27603

> Wednesday, October 2nd, 2019 6:00PM-7:30PM Sheppard Memorial Library Meeting Room A 530 Evans Street Greenville, NC 27835

Wednesday October 2nd, 2019 5:30PM-7:30PM Government Center – Room 267 600 East Fourth Street Charlotte, NC 28202 Free Parking will be available for all meeting attendees. If interested, please register via <u>Eventbrite</u>. Registration is encouraged but not required for entry. Please be aware that all comments provided during this hearing will be recorded and potentially utilized as evidence for the Disparity Study.

Also note that this meeting is being presided over by Griffin & Strong, P.C. and not the state of North Carolina. Neither GSPC or state of NC personnel will be responding to questions, only accepting commentary. If needed, GSPC may ask follow up questions for additional clarity. For questions or concerns, please email Griffin & Strong Deputy Project Manager, Sterling Johnson, at MCStudy@gspclaw.com or visit https://northcarolinadisparitystudy.com/. Please note all comments during the meeting may be recorded and potentially used in the studies.

Griffin & Strong, P.C. is a law and public policy consulting firm based in Atlanta, GA. Since 1992, the firm has represented individual clients, small businesses, corporations, and government entities in public policy consulting, legislation, contract compliance, supplier diversity consulting, and disparity studies.