Contact: Bukhari Nuriddin

E-mail: [bhamdisparitystudy@gspclaw.com](mailto:bhamdisparitystudy@gspclaw.com)

Phone: (404) 480-0217

**LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY ASKED TO JOIN THE VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARINGS TO COLLECT PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM’S 2021 DISPARITY STUDY**

***YOU ARE AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE FUTURE OF OUR CONTRACTING***

**BIRMINGHAM, AL (March 8, 2021)** -The City of Birmingham has engaged Griffin & Strong, P.C. (“GSPC”) to conduct a Disparity Study to determine whether minority and women owned firms have an equal opportunity to participate in City contracting. The Study will include the assessment of current programs, policies, and procedures.

A Disparity Study is an objective research tool whose findings of discrimination, if any, are a prerequisite to any race or gender based remedial program. GSPC, a law and public policy consulting firm based in Atlanta, Georgia, is a nationally recognized expert in disparity research. Public participation in the Study is critical to the accuracy of the Study findings which will result in policy recommendations to the City of Birmingham.

In the interest of preserving public health amidst COVID-19 concerns, GSPC will be hosting two virtual community engagements on April 15, 2021. These online sessions will provide the public with the opportunity to share their experiences, both positive and negative, doing business with and attempting to do business with the City of Birmingham. We encourage your participation and look forward to your feedback on how the City of Birmingham can improve diverse representation in public contracting. The meetings will be hosted:

**Thursday, April 15th, 2021**

**1:00 pm – 2:30 pm CST**

**Please RSVP at this link** [**https://bit.ly/37StJEN**](https://bit.ly/37StJEN)

**Thursday, April 15th, 2021**

**5:00 pm – 6:30 pm CST**

**Please RSVP at this link** [**http://bit.ly/3aY6Y4r**](http://bit.ly/3aY6Y4r)

Note: Registration is free and advanced registration is recommended but not required to participate. Once you register via Zoom, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to join the webinar. Use that link to join the Virtual Public Hearings on the meeting time you selected.

Meetings are facilitated and led by GSPC on behalf of the City of Birmingham. As a part of the public record, all comments will be recorded and may be used as anecdotal evidence for the 2021 Disparity Study. For questions or concerns, please email Griffin & Strong at [bhamdisparitystudy@gspclaw.com](mailto:bhamdisparitystudy@gspclaw.com).

*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 research.*

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