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## **LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO COLLECT PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE'S 2021 DISPARITY STUDY**

### ***SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTING BEGINS WITH YOUR VOICE***

**MILWAUKEE, WI (July 12, 2021)** - The City of Milwaukee commissioned Griffin & Strong, P.C. ("GSPC") to conduct a Disparity Study to determine if there is equity in City contracting. In addition, the Study will independently assess current and proposed minority and women owned business enterprise 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 Milwaukee. The study will determine whether there is a disparity between the percentage of minority and women owned firms that available to provide goods and services to the City and the City's utilization of those firms.

In the interest of preserving public health amidst COVID-19 concerns, GSPC will be hosting two virtual community engagements on Tuesday, August 10, 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 Milwaukee. We encourage your participation and look forward to your feedback on how the City of Milwaukee can improve diverse representation in public contracting. The meetings will be hosted:

**Tuesday, August 10, 2021**

**12:00pm-1:00pm CST**

**Please RSVP at this link <https://bit.ly/3kiaF9U>**

**Tuesday, August 10, 2021**

**5:00pm-6:00pm CST**

**Please RSVP at this link <https://bit.ly/3hYUdZK>**

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 Community Engagements on the meeting date you selected.

Meetings are facilitated and led by GSPC on behalf of the City of Milwaukee. 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 [MilwaukeeStudy@gspclaw.com](mailto:MilwaukeeStudy@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.*