

**Testimony of Lilia Snyder
Small Contractor Development
Program Manager
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City of New Haven, CT.**

Written

**Before the Committee on Government Administration and Elections
Public Hearing March 11, 2013**

Proposed Bill No. 6579: An Act Concerning The Prequalification of Subcontractors, Removing The Municipal Exemption From The Set-Aside Program and The Percentage of Contracts Reserved for Minority Business Enterprises.

Good Afternoon, my name is Lilia Snyder and I am the program manager for the City of New Haven's Small Contractor Development Program. In 2002 the New Haven Board of Aldermen approved section 121/4 of the New Haven Code of Ordinances which provided for a small contractor set a-side, mbe subcontractor goals, prompt payment, technical assistance, email notification of bids, access to bid specifications and plans, as well as networking sessions and workshops.

Prior to the enactment of 12 ¼,, complying with the Supreme Court decisions, City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co. and Adarand v. Pena, the City of New Haven conducted a disparity study through Mason and Tillman Associates and identified specific areas of underutilization. Our definition of a small contractor is one with gross receipts of under \$3,000,000/ the State of Ct. is under \$15,000.000, and our identified target area is New Haven County.

The Small Contractor Development Program has been highly successful, in 1999 the City of New Haven's MBE contractor participation was 6.72%, today it is 12%. The program is structured to meet the needs and address the economic disadvantages our local small and minority businesses face in doing business in and for New Haven. The City of New Haven opposes the removal of the municipal exemption from the set-aside program. Our recommendation is that municipalities with an existing legal -aside program maintain the exemption. Our local, small, and minority contractors since 2001 have had the ability to participate in a sheltered market environment that has allowed our local, small, and minority contractors to grow, to thrive on a level playing field, and to contribute to the economic development of New Haven.

I can be reached at 203-946-6550 for further comments or questions. Thank you