ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & DIVERSITY COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT
SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SCHOOL BOARD REPORT

JANUARY 18, 2023
Regular School Board Meeting

Good morning, Superintendent Cartwright, Chair Alhadeff, Board Members, and staff. My name is Lavinia Freeman, Staff Liaison to the Small Business Advisory Committee. I am presenting this report on their behalf. The Small Business Advisory Committee, also known as SBAC, is managed by the Economic Development & Diversity Compliance Department.

The committee serves, in partnership with the District to help grow the economic base of Broward County for the benefit of our students, families and the business community.

This report centers on the January 13th Closing the GAP Forum EDDC held on at Blanche Ely High School, in partnership with Community-Based Connections, Inc. and the Urban League of Broward County. The objective of the community meeting was to engage in a robust discussion with the African American Community leaders of Pompano Beach, about our shared vision for a resilient future of small, African American-owned businesses in District procurement activities. The goal was to discuss actions to scale spend with African American local suppliers.

EDDC invited more than forty community leaders to participate, following a recent uprise in the number of recommendations and inquiries surrounding the District's commitment to African American businesses in Broward County.

During the forum, Mr. Ballou and Procurement Director Mary Coker explained the current process, used by PWS and EDDC collaboratively, to improve the number of small, local businesses utilized for construction and commodities opportunities.

The community weighed in with a number of key ideas and recommendations for stakeholders to implement to help move the needle forward. This will be the central focus of next week's SBAC meeting, and will be reported to you at the Feb. 15th Board Meeting. Lastly, the Closing the GAP Forum recap will be included as an attachment to the EDDC Summary of Progress Report on the Feb. 15th School Board Agenda.

Thank you so much for your time.