

SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (SMWBE) PROGRAM

Volume 2, Issue 4

THE RESOURCE

"Linking Your Business to Opportunity"

Fall
2009

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

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Commissioners Court

County Judge
Nelson W. Wolff

Pct. 1 Commissioner
Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez

Pct. 2 Commissioner
Paul Elizondo

Pct. 3 Commissioner
Kevin Wolff

Pct. 4 Commissioner
Tommy Adkisson

David Marquez
Executive Director
Economic Development
Department

*"Linking your Business
to Opportunity"*

Hello fellow Veterans!

The Bexar County SMWBE newsletter provides great information and we encourage you to share it with everyone in the Veteran community. It is the County's desire to serve Veterans in many capacities.

One of the great benefits of being a veteran is the connection we have with one another. Do you know what's available to you as a Small, Minority, Woman or Veteran business?

Are you taking advantage of everything that is offered to you? Do you want to learn how to create or keep a successful business? We want to help you!!!

We invite you to join us on Wednesday, December 9th from 7am – 4pm for the Bexar County and University Health System's 9th annual Small, Minority, Women and Veterans Business Owners Conference.

Information will be provided on how to manage or grow a successful business, gain access to capital and do business with Federal, state and local agencies, and corporations.

The Procurement Exhibit Hall will have staff with \$BILLIONS of dollars in contracting opportunities for commodities, goods, services, construction and professional services. Exhibitors will offer Financial & Technical Assistance. Stop by the Technology Center to find bids

online and get SMWBE, HUB, DBE, or SBA Certification assistance. Come and visit with the US Small Business Administration, ACTION Texas, the Workforce



Bexar County
Commissioner Paul Elizondo
US Marine Corps Veteran

Solutions Alamo Business Resource Center, PTAC and the S. TX Business Fund.

We will also have a Veterans Business Center. This will educate you on what is available exclusively for Veterans and your families. We have information about the SBA Patriot Express Loan, Marketing and Presentation Skills, Teaming for Success in Federal Contracting and the Service Disabled Veteran- Owned Small Business Program.

We would be honored for our local wounded warriors to attend. Accommodations can be made in order to allow our HEROS to be a part of this event. Learn from the best on starting a home or internet based business.

As you can see, we have a full day of educating you on what is available to start or maintain a successful business. Admission and parking are free. Complimentary box lunch will be provided with reservations no later than December 2nd.

Bexar County Disparity Study Status

On September 15, 2009, Commissioners Court approved an RFP for Disparity & Availability Study Consulting Services. The report will help to ensure that small, disadvantaged, minority, women, and veteran owned businesses are afforded equitable opportunities to participate in Bexar County's contracting processes. In anticipation of the fast track schedule, the SMWBE Program staff is currently in the process of data collection from county records. The consultant will also conduct vendor surveys and hold focus groups. The anticipated completion date is Spring 2010. www.bexar.org/smwbe

MEET BEXAR COUNTY'S TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

Ms. Sylvia S. Romo



Tax Assessor
Collector

[Sylvia S. Romo](#)

Tax Assessor-Collector Sylvia Romo has accumulated a long list of accomplishments, honors and recognition in both her professional and political careers. Romo's business acumen provides a wealth of knowledge for community and charitable organization with which she is involved. In 1996 Ms. Romo became the first woman to be elected to the Office of the Tax Assessor-Collector of Bexar County (population 1.5 million). She is also the first Latina elected to any countywide executive post in government. As a Certified Public Accountant, businessperson and former legislator, Ms. Romo provides a unique mix of technical, management and political expertise coupled with an in-depth understanding of the critical issues and challenges facing the Office of the Tax Assessor-Collector.

As the Tax Assessor-Collector, Ms. Romo is responsible for the collection and disbursement of over \$4 billion dollars of revenue each year, an operating budget of \$10 million dollars, and a staff of 226 employees. In addition to her CPA certification, Ms. Romo is certified by the State of Texas as a Registered Texas Assessor-Collector and Certified Tax Administrator (R.T.A., C.T.A.). She also serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Bexar Appraisal District. Her determination to eliminate the "We've always done it this way" mode has resulted in a more responsive and efficient Tax Office.

The Office of the Tax Assessor-Collector provides services for Property Tax Collections,, Motor Vehicle Registration and Titling, and TABC Beer\ Wine Permits. In 2008 the Bexar County Tax Office issued license plates/stickers for over 1,328,551 vehicles, processed 441,231 title transfers, and issued 26,338 handicap placards, 3,467 beer & wine permits were issued and over \$2.4 two billion dollars in property taxes was collected and disbursed. The Tax Office collects ad valorem property taxes for the Bexar County General Fund and Flood Control Fund , the City of San Antonio and 46 other taxing entities, which include 20 municipalities, 11 school districts and 16 special districts.

Increasing community awareness of taxpayers' and voters' rights is one of Ms. Romo's chief goals. Her community involvement includes presentations to professional groups, community/neighborhood organizations and citizens on political and economic issues that impact their future. "As a fellow small business owner, I applaud your participation in the SMWBE, your entrepreneurial spirit and your determination to succeed. As always, I encourage you to use my office as a resource," said Romo.

Frequently Asked Questions:

The Bexar County Tax Assessor-Collector is pleased to provide the citizens of Bexar County with two options to pay their real estate and personal property tax online: either by credit card or electronic check (automatic debit from your checking account.) There is a fee for either service.

[Pay your Tax Bill ONLINE](#)

For credit card payments, this confirmation e-mail will be sent from customerservice@officialpayments.com and e-Check payments from customerservice@collectorsolutions.com .

Tax Information - Send your questions to taxoffice@bexar.org

Or access online at www.bexar.org

- [Property Tax](#)
- [Beer & Liquor Tax](#)
- [Motor Vehicle Tax](#)

Vehicle Registration
WWW.TEXASONLINE.COM



Contact the Tax Office

CUSTOMER SERVICE LOCATIONS

DOWNTOWN:

[Vista Verde Plaza Building](#)
[233 N. Pecos La Trinidad](#)

NORTHEAST:

[3370 Nacogdoches, Suite 160](#)

NORTHWEST

[8407 Bandera Road](#)

SOUTHSIDE:

[660 S.W. Military Drive](#)

(click on links above for maps)

CUSTOMER SERVICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

8:00 A.M. - 4:45 P.M.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

General Information 335-2251

Property Tax 335-6628

Vehicle Registration/Titling 335-6627

UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM APPOINTS NEW SMALL, MINORITY, WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM SUPPLIER DIVERSITY COORDINATOR



Gabriela Canales
Supplier Diversity Coordinator

As a recognized leader in the field of healthcare, University Health System (UHS) is committed to supplier diversity. At UHS, the goal is to facilitate the process of making it easier for vendors to find out about our procurement opportunities and for the Health System to identify vendor capabilities. Gabriela Canales serves as the Supplier Diversity Coordinator

The Supplier Diversity Program actively:

1. Assist all vendors by providing access to UHS procurement opportunities; and
2. Provides the maximum practicable opportunity for small, minority and women owned businesses to participate in the procurement process.

UHS has implemented an online vendor registration process to complement online bidding. Both online registration and online bidding are secure processes designed to streamline and improve access to procurement opportunities while saving time and money. For information on the Supplier Diversity Program, call (210) 358-9114 or send an email to gabriela.canales@uhs-sa.com.

Bexar County Contract and Diversity Management System (CDMS)

The Bexar County Contract and Diversity Management System (CDMS) is used to determine and report the County's service and product acquisition activities and more accurately evaluate participation of small, minority, Veterans, disabled, disadvantaged and women business owners in county procurement.

The system is used to generate list of vendors for the solicitation of Request for Proposals (RFP), Invitation for Bids (IFB), Request for Qualifications (RFQs) and Request for Quotes (RFQ). This increased outreach effort provides SMWBE with more opportunity to participate and receive awards. This means that the County and its contractors will benefit by having a common platform where they can input information through a web based application. This greatly simplifies the work needed for outreach and reporting as well as improving the quality of both efforts.

The CDMS is a best practices type of a tool used to manage contract compliance in order to determine whether or not the SMWBE program is meeting its Mission. The database module is user-friendly and accessible to county employees and vendors.

All vendors are encouraged to register for opportunities with Bexar County at www.bexar.org or contact the Purchasing Department at (210) 335-2211.

CDMS vendors also include SCTRCA, TUCP, COSA, UHS, HUB, City of Houston, DFW, NCTRCA, TXDOT, BDA, self - entered & paid County primes (FY 2001- 09).



SMWBE Reports



Commissioners Court leads by encouraging responsible, sustainable economic development activities that result in job creation, business expansion and retention, and the development of entrepreneurs for an improved quality of life for the people of Bexar County

Funded entities, facilities and economic development projects, to the extent practical and consistent with standard and prudent industry practices, often agree to divide contracted work and procurement opportunities into the smallest feasible portions to allow for maximum SMWBE participation and make a good faith effort to award at least 20% of its contracted work to certified MWBE and at least 30% to certified SBE.

The SMWBE Program Office helps with outreach activities and disseminating materials to SMWBEs to encourage participation in the procurement, and contracting process of the external organizations.

Projects include:

- Spurs Sports & Entertainment
- Cibolo Canyon Public Improvement District
- University Health System
- Freeman Coliseum
- Center for Health Care Services
- San Antonio River Authority
- Texas Department of Transportation



" Linking your Business to Opportunity "

SMWBE Program Advisory Committee

Dan Barrett, Chair
 Crystal Darby, Vice Chair
Sub-committee Chairpersons:
 JoAnn Ramon, Policy
 Larry Ybarra, Certification
 Steven Buffkin, Outreach
 Cyndi Blackmon, Opportunities

Members:

Elise Cox
 Ramiro Cavazos
 Pete Mireles
 Manuel Villa
 Carla Vela
 Margaret Anaglia
 Benito Recio
 Travis Wiltshire
 Harold Orosco

Appointed by Commissioners Court for a term of two years.

Economic Development Department

David Marquez
 Executive Director

SMWBE Program Office

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Program Analyst
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Helpful Links



SMWBE Team Members
 Rod, Sylvia, David, Tony & Renee

Procurement Opportunities

- Bexar County (www.bexar.org)
- University Health System (www.universityhealthsystem.com)
- A T & T Center (www.ATTCenter.Com)
- City of San Antonio (www.sanantonio.gov)

Certification & Assistance Agencies

- Small Business Administration (SBA) (www.sba.gov)
- Texas—Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) (www.window.state.tx.us)
- South Central Texas Regional Certification Agency (SCTRCA) (www.sctrca.org)
- Southwest Minority Supplier Development Council (SMSDC) (www.smsdc.org)
- Women's Business Enterprise Alliance (WBEA) (www.wbea-texas.org)
- ACCION Texas (www.acciontexas.org)
- UTSA Small Business Development Center (SBDC) (www.sbdnet.utsa.edu)
- South Texas Business Fund (www.sotexbizfund.org)

Bexar County & University Health System
 present the 9th Annual

Small, Minority, Women & Veterans Business Owners Conference

HOW TO GET IN THE GAME & STAY IN THE GAME

Wednesday Dec. 9
 7AM - 4PM
 Freeman Coliseum

Information & Registration (210) 335-2478 or www.bexar.org/smwbe
 Free Admission & Parking! Complimentary box lunch with reservation!

