



Testimony

In Support of an Ordinance for the Establishment of a Commission for Economic Justice in the City of Boston Construction Industry

City Council Committee on Government Operations Hearing on Docket #1399

by

Joseph Kriesberg, President

**Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations
November 30, 2018**

On behalf of the members and Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations, we wish to express our support for the proposed ordinance which would strengthen compliance with the standards established by the City of Boston to improve economic justice in the construction industry.

Specifically, we support the establishment of a Commission and the call for public meetings with trade unions representatives and with representatives of open shop associations, to assess past performance and to plan for increasing the number of Boston residents, workers of color, and women entering these apprenticeship programs. And CDCs strongly support the biannual public reporting requirements by the Commission to the City Council to ensure that all trade unions, general contractors, and subcontractors remain focused on achieving these goals.

MACDC and its members have a longstanding commitment to ensuring that our construction projects generate economic opportunities for Boston residents, workers of color, women, minority-owned enterprises and woman-owned enterprises. Over the past six years, we have worked in partnership with the Massachusetts Minority Contractors Association to enhance CDCs efforts to engage M/WBEs in CDC-led construction projects and to hold ourselves accountable to high levels of performance.

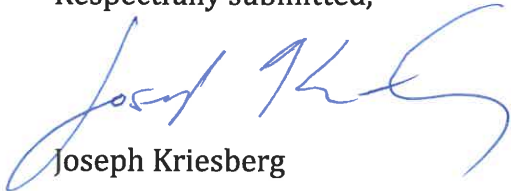
All CDCs that participate in our program have benefited from the shared learning of the group, the political support that MACDC, MMCA and the other CDCs bring to these projects, the networks and connections that MMCA can provide to MBEs and WBES, and the notable goodwill that comes with participating in a proactive effort to expand economic opportunity across our communities.

The focus of our program is on M/WBE participation, and there is consistent evidence that achieving these goals will also result in the hiring of more people of color on these projects, thereby achieving yet another key economic development goal of diversifying our shared workforce. We are proud that our members have generally done comparatively well regarding the goals in the BJRP.

Our original program included six CDCs – Madison Park, Dorchester Bay EDC, Jamaica Plain NDC, Codman Square NDC, Nuestra Comunidad and Urban Edge – that had enrolled 12 projects in the program and generated collectively more than \$54 million in business opportunities for minority- and women-owned (M/WBEs). Four additional CDCs – Somerville Community Corporation (SCC), Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH), Inquilinos Boricuas en Accion (IBA) and Asian CDC – have now joined the partnership and, to date, they have self-identified 25 projects with total development cost of more than \$600 million. This could generate approximately \$240 million in business opportunity for MBEs and WBEs over the next few years.

MACDC applauds Councilors Edwards, Janey and Pressley and the advocates who have advanced this ordinance thus far. We look forward to working with all of you to ensure its successful implementation.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph Kriesberg