



DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE POLICY STATEMENT

The Virgin Islands Department of Public Works (DPW) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. DPW receives federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation. As a condition of receiving this assistance, DPW has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is DPW's policy to ensure that DBEs, as defined in Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT assisted contracts. It is also DPW's policy:

- To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts;
- To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT- assisted contracts;
- To ensure the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
- To ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
- To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT assisted contracts;
- To assist with the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE Program.

DPW's Civil Rights Program Manager has been delegated as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity, the Civil Rights Program Manager is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program. Implementation of the DBE program is accorded the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by DPW in its financial assistance agreements with the Department of Transportation.

DPW has disseminated this policy statement throughout the department and to all other divisions of the organization. DPW has distributed this statement to DBE and non-DBE business associations that perform work for us on DOT-assisted contracts, and to the general public by a variety of methods. These include the posting of this statement on the DPW's website, Chambers of Commerce, and with community-based organizations serving the disadvantaged business community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Derek A. Gabriel', is written over a horizontal line.

Derek A. Gabriel
Commissioner

A handwritten date '7/16/2021' in blue ink is written over a horizontal line.

Date