

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 24, 2020 MEETING OF THE
FAIRFAX COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION**

Location: Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035,
Conference Room 232

Attending: SBC Members

John Pellegrin (At-Large), Sha Scott-Boyd (At-Large), Tracey Wood (At-Large), Daren Shumate
(Mason), Melody Thorson (Mt. Vernon), Marvin Powell (Sully)

Staff (Department of Procurement and Material Management)

Chris McGough

Guests

Shirley Luu, Michael O’Hanlan, Dr. Damian Dunbar, Michelle Martin, Guillermo A.
Birmingham, Silvestre Acedillo, Nora Gamboa

Absent: SBC Members

Joseph Underwood (Braddock), Malachi B. Jones, Jr. (Dranesville), Gwyn Whittaker (Hunter
Mill), Kelly Hebron (Lee), Nalin Jain (Providence), Kyle McDaniel (Springfield)

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Powell.

Minutes from the January 27, 2020 meeting were approved without amendment.

Committee Reports

Communications/Media Productions

- Commissioner Wood shared a new video production that was recently created which highlights the SBC and its initiatives. The clip will be shared with key stakeholders and played on channel 16.

Community Business Partnership (Quarterly Report) – No Report

Economic Advisory Council (Quarterly Report) – No Report

Education and Outreach

- Commissioner Powell reminded the SBC that education and outreach is critical to achieving the goals of the SBC. Commissioners are encouraged to conduct outreach in a style/manner that works best for their districts.

Executive – No Report

Legislative and Policy – No Report

Office of Emergency Management – No Report

Small Business Forum – No Report

Strategic Planning – No Report

Vendor Comments Board/Ombuds – No Report

Bea Malone Award – No Report

Staff Report

- None

Old Business

- After Committee Reports, Chairman Powell devoted the rest of the meeting to a dialogue between the guests (local business representatives) and Commissioners to identify barriers/opportunities facing the small business community. The objective was to identify future focus areas for the SBC. This is a continuation of the discussion from the last meeting. To start the discussion, Chairman Powell provided a background of the One Fairfax Policy on racial and social equity and framed the discussion around the significant economic benefits that stem from realizing this goal. A facilitated discussion followed. Commissioners brainstormed ideas with guests.
 - Topics introduced by guests include: challenges of small businesses to manage second tier priorities such as accounting and networking, barriers accessing government procurement opportunities, a lack of government assistance to micro businesses, a lack of support to startups immediately after they launch, the importance of and challenge accessing international supply chains, supplier responsibility issues, etc.
- The SBC will continue discussing possible future actions to best support the Fairfax County small business community at its next meeting.

New Business

- None

Adjournment – Chairman Powell adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.