Community and Workplace Culture Committee

2/9/2026 Committee Meeting

6b

Subject

Quarterly Business Outreach Update

Executive Summary

This quarterly update provides information on Business Outreach and Community Engagement initiatives and projects. The next quarterly update is scheduled for May 2026.

Details and Background

The Metropolitan Vendor Development Program (VDP) is designed to assist in enhancing the competitiveness of the small business community in support of Metropolitan's Board-established contracting requirements.

The VDP seeks to broaden access to opportunities for Small and Disabled Veteran Businesses (S/DVBE) by providing one-on-one/group coaching, strategic guidance, training, and contracting options. This increases the ability of S/DVBE to be responsive to Metropolitan solicitations to help meet or exceed board-established small business contracting goals.

Staff will provide an overview of these four VDP programs:

- Business Coaching – a one-on-one coaching session begins with a screening of each firm to assess capability, capacity, and opportunities for qualified vendors. Depending on the vendor experience, the staff then recommends the next steps.

- Mentor-Protege – Large prime contractors are matched with small firms based on their capabilities, and sessions are arranged to gain a better understanding of potential joint bidding opportunities.

- Contractor Academy – a four-part series designed for small construction contractors seeking to contract with the public sector. The academy provides prospective contractors with an understanding of Metropolitan's high standards for construction, specifications, and submittal requirements, and the schedule of upcoming projects.

- Vendor Introductions – Meetings are arranged with internal technical staff and small businesses to facilitate meaningful connections to learn about capabilities and potential innovations in the market.

Lili M. Thomas   1/27/2026
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer   *Date*

Shivaji Deshmukh   1/27/2026
General Manager   *Date*