

Testimony of Ralph B. Ibarra, President – DiverseAmerica Network

Port of Seattle Commission Meeting: October 24, 2017

RE:

For the record, my name is Ralph Ibarra and my company is DiverseAmerica Network, my home is in Algona, Washington, and I have been a tax-paying resident of the Port's jurisdiction since 1980. I am an advocate and activist for equity and justice in public works contracts for diverse firms; specifically, enterprises owned and operated by minorities, women, veterans, the disabled, and those that identify them as LGBT. I am here to testify on Agenda Items 7e, Port of Seattle Women and Minority Business Enterprise Policy.

1. In addition to Women and Minority Business Enterprises, Veteran-owned, Disabled-owned, and LGBT-owned Business Enterprises should be included in any Policy Directive on Equity in Port Contracting.

2. In addition to the Washington State Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises, there are other entities that certify bona fide diverse firms; e.g. the National Minority Supplier Development Council, the Women's Business Enterprise National Council, the Washington State Dept. of Veterans Affairs, National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, the United States Business Leadership Network, the United States Dept. of Veterans Affairs Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization, and others.

3. The Resource Guides issued by the Government Alliance on Race & Equity should be required study by all Port staff, of which the Port of Seattle is a member. The Contracting for Equity – Best Local Government Practices that Advance Racial Equity in Government Contracting and Procurement is particularly germane to the issue before the Commission.

4. Prompt payment terms and conditions should be incorporated into all procurement solicitations, contract language and as a condition of award that also allows the Port to audit compliance and issue remedies as needed.