



MEDIA RELEASE

TO: All Pittsburgh Media

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VIBRANT PITTSBURGH WELCOMES STATE DGS OFFICIAL TO AUGUST WILSON CENTER

PITTSBURGH, PA -- Vibrant Pittsburgh will host Kerry Kirkland, Deputy Secretary for Diversity, Inclusion, and Small Business Opportunities for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at a reception on Monday, August 14 from 5:00 PM until 6:30 PM at the August Wilson Center for African American Culture, 980 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh.

The Department of General Services' Bureau of Diversity, Inclusion & Small Business Opportunities (BDISBO) is responsible for assisting small and diverse businesses, including Minority Business Enterprises, Women Business Enterprises, Veteran Business Enterprises, Service-Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises, Disability-Owned Business Enterprises, and LGBT Business Enterprises in competing for Commonwealth contracting opportunities.

Kirkland is expected to reaffirm the Wolf Administration's commitment to increasing diversity, inclusion, and small business opportunities in government. He will discuss how the commonwealth has halted the decline in the percentage of state contracting dollars spent with small and small diverse businesses and the role that the new streamlined Request for Proposal (RFP) process will play in increasing dollars spent with small and small diverse businesses. The new RFP procedures in combination with prior improvements to scoring methodology and subcontractor participation are projected to have a significant short and long-term impact on overall small, diverse business participation in government contracting.

Kirkland will also provide an update on the progress of the Commonwealth's Disparity Study. Launched this summer, the study will assess whether disadvantaged businesses face discrimination and allow the Commonwealth to set short-term and long-term goals to increase small business and small diverse business participation in contracting.

The media is invited to attend and cover this event.

Vibrant Pittsburgh is an economic development non-profit established in 2010, whose mission is to build a thriving and inclusive Pittsburgh region by attracting, retaining and elevating a diversity of talent.

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