

MOTION BY MAYOR ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA

**Item 20 - Diversity and Equal Opportunity Department**

Executive Management and Audit Committee

January 19, 2006

WHEREAS public agencies have a responsibility to provide equal opportunities to all businesses for participation in contracting; and

WHEREAS the MTA should be committed to opening doors for small, minority-owned, and women-owned businesses whenever possible; and

WHEREAS making such a commitment requires setting aside appropriate funding to carry out that mission; and

WHEREAS the Diversity & Economic Opportunity Department (DEOD) staff has conducted a best practices survey to identify Small Business-related outreach activities that the MTA may employ to effectively increase the number of certified Small Businesses participating in its procurements; and

WHEREAS it is imperative that the MTA continue to be a leader in the Small Business community; and

WHEREAS DEOD's review of other public agencies concludes that MTA can improve its outreach efforts by increasing next year's budget by \$55,000 from \$45,000 to \$100,000.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the MTA Board direct the CEO to:

1. Transfer \$25,000 from Board Contingency in the current fiscal year (2005-2006) to the Diversity & Economic Opportunity Department's small business outreach program.
2. Include at least \$100,000 in funding in the proposed 2006-2007 MTA budget for the Diversity & Economic Opportunity Department's small outreach program.

I FURTHER MOVE that the MTA Board direct the Inspector General to conduct a performance audit on how to improve the effectiveness of the Diversity & Economic Opportunity Department.