

## **Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Announces the Results of the 2016 MWBE Disparity Study**

**New York State – On June 30, 2017**, the 2016 Disparity Study, (<https://esd.ny.gov/doing-business-ny/mwbe/mwbe-reports>) authored by Mason Tillman, were finally released. In 2015, the State of New York conducted its second disparity study, the first of which took place in 2010. A disparity study is conducted in order to evaluate the participation by Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs) in government contracting compared to the availability of MWBEs in the marketplace. The purpose of the disparity study is to determine whether any race or gender-based disparity exists in New York State contracting, based on the supreme court ruling decision in 1983, Richmond v. Croson. (<https://www.casebriefs.com/blog/law/constitutional-law/constitutional-law-keyed-to-stone/equality-and-the-constitution/city-of-richmond-v-j-a-croson-company-2/>)

The Study took into account contracts issued by the State between April 1, 2010 and March 31, 2015 and were analyzed to provide the baseline data was limited to the confines of New York State.

Over 1,800 surveys were received and reviewed by Mason Tillman, and The New York State Empire State Development (<https://esd.ny.gov/doing-business-ny/mwbe>) hosted 17 disparity study meetings throughout the state in 2015-2016, which were attended by over 1,000 individuals. One of the primary differences between the 2016 Disparity Study and the study that was conducted in 2010 is that the 2016 Disparity Study analyzed five times more contracting data compared to the 2010 Disparity Study, which has resulted in more comprehensive findings.

The disparity study was conducted because Article 15-A of the Executive Law requires the State to periodically examine the utilization of Minority and Women-Owned Businesses as it relates to government procurement. The completed study will enable the State to increase the participation of M/WBEs on the State's contracts, and also identify recommendations that will help to build a stronger MWBE program. The study is also useful in helping the State to identify best practices.

"The results of the **2016 Disparity Study** have been greatly anticipated," said **Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte, Chair of the Subcommittee on the Oversight of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises**. "I am looking forward to working with my colleagues to strengthen Article 15-A of the law now that we have the Disparity Study to support it."

For more information about the 2016 Disparity Study, click on the following links:

2016 Disparity Study Fact Sheet ([https://esd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/final2016\\_MWBEDisparityStudy\\_FactSheet.pdf](https://esd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/final2016_MWBEDisparityStudy_FactSheet.pdf))  
Volume I- Disparity Study  
Volume II- Policy Study  
Volume III- Personal Net Worth Report  
Volume IV- Workforce Study

Thank you  
Rodneyse Bichotte  
Chair, MWBE Sub-committee, NYS Assembly