



STATEMENT OF FORT WORTH METROPOLITAN BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON THE STATE'S ENDING OF HUB CERTIFICATIONS

The State of Texas has delivered another blow to the concept of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). This week Acting Texas Comptroller Kelly Hancock announced a freeze on the issuance of new and renewed Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) certification for state procurement, pending further action to ensure the program's administrative procedures and rules are constitutional.

Since the abolishment of DEI programs on the local, state and national levels, the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce (FWMBCC), has continued to work hard in serving small businesses regardless of race or ethnicity.

Suspension of the HUB certification, Hancock said, ensures immediate compliance with the U. S Constitution, Texas Constitution and Gov. Greg Abbott's Executive Order GA-55, which prohibit race- and sex-based preferences when awarding government benefits.

"Texans deserve a level playing field where government contracts are earned by performance and best value – nothing more, nothing less," he said.

Despite all the changes, the FWMBCC remains steadfast in our mission to support the success of all businesses, especially those that have faced systemic barriers. We will continue to work closely with our members, partners, and the broader business community to ensure that every entrepreneur has a fair shot at growth and opportunity.

We are committed to:

- Engaging with state leaders to advocate for inclusive policies that promote economic opportunity for all.
- Providing timely updates and resources to help businesses navigate this change
- Collaborating with all businesses -- regardless of size, background, or industry – to build a stronger, more inclusive economy in Fort Worth and beyond.

We shall continue to advocate for our members, knowing that the businesses we represent will be resilient no matter what challenges or political headwinds they may encounter.

Ty Stimpson
Chairman of the Board

Michell Green-Ford
President & CEO