

A Stronger Bill for a Stronger Community

Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte and Senator James Sanders Jr. announce the introduction of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Legislation

Albany, NY – Assemblymember Bichotte (D-Brooklyn), Chair of Oversight of the Minority and Women-owned Enterprise subcommittee of the New York State Assembly, today released the following statement. Bichotte seeks to amend the general municipal law, and the New York City Charter, in relation to opportunities for Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises (M/WBEs). She is joined by **Senator James Sanders Jr.** (D-Queens) to carry the bill as the Senate sponsor.

Chairwoman Bichotte's continued unwavering commitment for M/WBE continues to shine. She now sponsors bill [A8044A](#), (which in the Senate is Sanders' [S5924A](#)) which amends and expands the State's General Municipal Law and thus creates additional procurement opportunities for M/WBE by the following:

- Increases the City's M/WBE discretionary spending of small-purchase threshold from \$100,000 up to \$200,000.
- Allows M/WBE status to be a factor in "best value" awards.
- Establishes capacity building programs for the benefit of State or Local M/WBE Certified firms doing business in New York City.
- Permits pre-qualified lists for purchase contracts in addition to public works contracts.

"Recognizing that to address the socioeconomic issues in our emerging and untapped communities, it is clear that we must spur the creation of sustainable small businesses and jobs", said **Bichotte**. "Increased M/WBE participation in government contracts will share New York City's wealth with all New Yorkers, and the resulting will capture billions of dollars."

The bill will amend the New York City Charter to authorize the City's Procurement Policy Board to provide by rule the above enhancement.

"Working with those committed to social justice and economic opportunity such as Assemblymember Bichotte has been invigorating", said **Senator Sanders**. "We can battle the tale of two cities by ensuring equality of opportunity and an even starting point, and that is what this bill insists upon." Concluding, **Sanders** said, "I will be a determined advocate for this bill in the NYS Senate."

Other M/WBE legislation introduced by Chairwoman Bichotte:

[A7580](#) - Authorizes state agencies to use discretionary purchasing authority for procurements from service-disabled veteran-owned businesses

[A7582](#) - In relation to deposits on plans and specifications for contracts for public works

[A7719](#) - Allows businesses to use funds received from the minority and women-owned business development and lending program for the purpose of refinancing existing debt