

**From:** [DEROTHEA WILLIAMS](#)  
**To:** [Matilda Bliss](#); [DeLores Venable](#); [Kate Tinnan](#); [Ray Mapp](#); [Olympia Garrett](#); [Bill Sutton](#); [Bennie Miller](#); [Andrea Clarke](#); [Sharon Smith](#); [Rasheeda McDaniels](#); [Sarah Skinner](#); [Patrick Conant](#); [Mike Jackson](#); [Amy Cantrell](#); [Luke Fernbach](#); [Jay Springer](#); [Carol Buffum](#); [Erin Hardy](#); [erin@ncbrookhaven.com](#); [Brit Castañeda](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] MBE/WBE Contracting/Procurement Data for Buncombe County for FY 2015, 2016, and 2017  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 16, 2018 1:09:47 PM

---

**CAUTION:** External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless verified. Use the "Phish Alert" button to report all suspicious email.

---

Hi Everyone:

This attached or preceding email for the lack of MBE data by Buncombe County Purchasing/Contracting is the second year in a row that no data was provided. What does not get counted, does not matter. This is why the black community fares so poorly, since we fail to invoke accountability.

More to come.

Dee

Dee Williams, President  
Dee Williams and Company, Inc.  
136 Wyoming Rd.  
Asheville, NC 28803  
Phone: 828-275-6217

**" Civil rights without economic clout is a borrowed event - they can be taken away at any time." Joshua Smith, CEO, the Maxim Corporation**

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Ron Venturella <Ron.Venturella@buncombecounty.org>  
**To:** DEROTHEA WILLIAMS <derotheawilliams@att.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 16, 2018 8:11 AM  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] MBE/WBE Contracting/Procurement Data for Buncombe County for FY 2015, 2016, and 2017

Mrs. Williams,

Unfortunately we still are not able to collect the minority business information you requested. We recently switched to a new software system in April and working with the vendor to update that software to start collecting the data.

Several ways the County is reaching out to minority owned businesses and individuals are: Advertise for request for bids and qualifications on our website, as well as in the Asheville Citizen Times, and on North Carolina's Interactive Purchasing System. Several outreach programs the County participates are the Annual Reverse Vendor Fair, sponsors the Economic Summit and a member of the Supplier Diversity Council. As well as offering several grants available through our Community Investment.

One of the Commissioner's Strategic Priorities is a Diverse Community Workforce. See link below.

<https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/commissioners/strategic-priorities/Diverse-Community-Workforce.pdf>

I have contacted our Public Relations Department to inquire if a Disparity Study has been carried out recently. I have not heard back at this time but will let you know if there is any information to provide you.

Sincerely,

Ron Venturella, MSAC, CLGPO  
Procurement Manager, Buncombe County  
200 College St.  
Asheville, NC 28801  
828-250-4154

---

**From:** DEROTHEA WILLIAMS <derotheawilliams@att.net>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 08, 2018 4:15 PM

**To:** Ron Venturella <Ron.Venturella@buncombecounty.org>; Michael M. Stanberry <Michael.Stanberry@buncombecounty.org>

**Cc:** Matilda Bliss <matildasayshey@gmail.com>; DeLores Venable <delo4sure@gmail.com>; Kate Tinnan <kate.wovenstones@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] MBE/WBE Contracting/Procurement Data for Buncombe County for FY 2015, 2016, and 2017

**CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless verified. Use the "Phish Alert" button to report all suspicious email.**

---

Mr. Venturella:

Thank you for your response. Safe travels, and I look forward to your response when I return.

Regards,

Dee Williams

Dee Williams, President  
Dee Williams and Company, Inc.  
136 Wyoming Rd.  
Asheville, NC 28803  
Phone: 828-275-6217

**" Civil rights without economic clout is a borrowed event - they can be taken away at any time." Joshua Smith, CEO, the Maxim Corporation**

---

**From:** Ron Venturella <[Ron.Venturella@buncombecounty.org](mailto:Ron.Venturella@buncombecounty.org)>  
**To:** DEROTHEA WILLIAMS <[derotheawilliams@att.net](mailto:derotheawilliams@att.net)>; Michael M. Stanberry <[Michael.Stanberry@buncombecounty.org](mailto:Michael.Stanberry@buncombecounty.org)>  
**Cc:** Matilda Bliss <[matildasayshey@gmail.com](mailto:matildasayshey@gmail.com)>; DeLores Venable <[delo4sure@gmail.com](mailto:delo4sure@gmail.com)>; Kate Tinnan <[kate.wovenstones@gmail.com](mailto:kate.wovenstones@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 8, 2018 8:48 AM  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] MBE/WBE Contracting/Procurement Data for Buncombe County for FY 2015, 2016, and 2017

Mrs. Williams,

Unfortunately I am leaving this morning for a few days to attend a conference in Raleigh. When I return I will look into the information you requested.

Ron Venturella, MSAC, CLGPO  
Procurement Manager, Buncombe County  
200 College St.  
Asheville, NC 28801  
828-250-4154

---

**From:** DEROTHEA WILLIAMS <[derotheawilliams@att.net](mailto:derotheawilliams@att.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 07, 2018 10:37 PM  
**To:** Ron Venturella <[Ron.Venturella@buncombecounty.org](mailto:Ron.Venturella@buncombecounty.org)>; Michael M. Stanberry <[Michael.Stanberry@buncombecounty.org](mailto:Michael.Stanberry@buncombecounty.org)>  
**Cc:** Matilda Bliss <[matildasayshey@gmail.com](mailto:matildasayshey@gmail.com)>; DeLores Venable <[delo4sure@gmail.com](mailto:delo4sure@gmail.com)>; Kate Tinnan <[kate.wovenstones@gmail.com](mailto:kate.wovenstones@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] MBE/WBE Contracting/Procurement Data for Buncombe County for FY 2015, 2016, and 2017

**CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless verified. Use the "Phish Alert" button to report all suspicious email.**

---

Good Evening, Gentlemen:

I/we request a break down or disaggregation of contracting/procurement dollars which the City of Asheville spent with ethnic minority owned firms for fiscal years 2015, 2016 and 2017, respectively. Please provide the breakdowns for the amounts spent with Hispanic, American Indian, Alaskan Natives (Aleuts), Asian, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander.

Please also provide a breakdown of amounts spent with Women Owned firms (WBE's). This would also include a breakdown of dollars spent in each category of performance, i.e. like services, professional services, and construction, etc., procurement/commodities, etc.

This disaggregation would include all amounts which are spent, including those which are put on Procurement or "P" cards.

Please put the information into an Excel format, with an identical format for each respective year and categorized according to the sectors of contracting, procurement, and disaggregated by federally recognized ethnic minority groups as cited above, and in addition, white women owned firms.

Please also indicate whether the firms are allowed to "self-certify" as ethnic minority owned/ women owned, and majority owned firms.

Please inform me of how long it will take to compile this data, and if it is available, send copies of the same to me.

Please provide any updates which are available on the progress of any Disparity Study which was commissioned by the County to provide the legal requirements to prevent legal challenges to your Program, and the timeline for conclusion of any Disparity Study which is in process, if it is not completed. If it is concluded and the results or the study are finished, please let us know, as well so we can share it with our audiences. Once it is concluded, will a Committee review, allow the public to have input, and then adopt it? How will compliance/improvement/ be benchmarked and how will it be disclosed to the public and at what intervals?

We obtained very little information from Ms. Pamela Freeman-King when we contacted the County about the same data for previous years, since it was not kept, nor reported at that time.

In advance, thank you for your cooperation. If you have questions, please contact me without hesitation.

It is time for a series of educational workshops which will lead up to another Economic Policy Summit. before the end of the current fiscal year, if practical. Leading up to the Summit, there will be a series of day long workshops to educate the community which are planned for June, so time is of the essence.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Regards,

Dee Williams

.

Dee

Dee Williams, President  
Dee Williams and Company, Inc.  
136 Wyoming Rd.  
Asheville, NC 28803  
Phone: 828-275-6217

**" Civil rights without economic clout is a borrowed event - they can be taken away at any time." Joshua Smith, CEO, the Maxim Corporation**