

RESOLUTION
of the
ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
regarding
THE MINORITY WOMEN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

Resolution No. _____

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2025, the President of the United States signed Executive Order 14151, “Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing” (“EO 14151”) which directs the termination of “all discriminatory programs, including illegal DEI and ‘diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility’ (DEIA) mandates , policies, programs, preferences, and activities in the Federal Government, under whatever name they appear”; and

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2025, the President of the United States signed Executive Order 14173, “Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity” (“EO 14173”), which expresses opposition to programs that promote diversity, equity and inclusion (“DEI”) or DEIA and repealing numerous Executive Orders, including one that had been in place since 1965; and

WHEREAS, EO 14173 includes a requirement that recipients of grant funding from federal agencies be required to certify that they do not operate any programs promoting DEI that violate federal anti-discrimination laws; and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2025, the Deputy Attorney General of the United States issued a memorandum indicating that “(t)he False Claims Act is also implicated whenever federal-funding recipients or contractors certify compliance with civil rights laws while knowingly engaging in racist preferences, mandates, policies, programs and activities, including through diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs that assign benefits or burdens on race, ethnicity, or national origin” and creating a “Civil Rights Fraud Initiative” which will use the False Claims Act to investigate and pursue claims against any recipient of federal funds that knowingly violates federal civil rights laws; and

WHEREAS, the False Claims Act provides for treble damages and potential criminal penalties; and

WHEREAS, the County receives in excess of \$100 million in federal grants each year; and

WHEREAS, in order to avoid the loss of this federal funding used by the County to provide essential services to its citizens and potential civil and criminal penalties and prosecution under the False Claims Act, the County is hereby suspending certain programs, ordinances, policies and practices until further action by the Orange County Board of County Commissioners.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY:

Section 1. The above recitals are hereby incorporated and are to be considered binding.

Section 2. The Orange County Board of County Commissioners hereby suspends the following ordinances and applicable administrative regulations, programs, policies and practices and directs staff to prepare an ordinance reflecting these changes to be considered at a subsequent meeting:

a. Enforcement of Chapter 17, Article III, Division 4 of the Orange County Code of Ordinances (Minority/Women Business Enterprise Ordinance), Administrative Regulation No.9.02 and any other administrative regulations, policies or procedures, or portions thereof, to the extent related to the Minority/Women Business Enterprise Program and the Minority/Women Business Enterprise Advisory Committee. The functions of the Minority/Women Business Enterprise Advisory Committee will be suspended and no meetings of that board shall occur until further action by the Board of County Commissioners.

b. Any other ordinance, administrative regulation, program, policy, and/or practice considered to promote DEI or DEIA that violate federal anti-discrimination laws.

Section 3. The effective date of this Resolution shall be July 1, 2025.

ADOPTED this 1st day of July, 2025.

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Orange County Board of County Commissioners

By: _____
Jerry L. Demings
Orange County Mayor

ATTEST: Phil Diamond, CPA, County Comptroller
As Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk