

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAS AT UNC CHAPEL HILL
BUILDING INTEGRATED COMMUNITIES

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Hannah Gill, hgill@email.unc.edu

City of Washington passes ordinance to support local minority-owned businesses

Washington, December 20th, 2021: The City Council of Washington, North Carolina approved an ordinance to provide local businesses owned by minorities and women an equitable opportunity to participate and compete in contract procurement procedures. The measure implements a recommendation of the Washington Building Integrated Communities (BIC) Assessment and Action Plan, which consists of recommendations from Beaufort County residents, including individuals with Latin American ancestry, collected in 2020-2021. Businesses that are 51 percent owned by one or more minority persons or socially and economically disadvantaged individuals can apply for a certification as a “Historically Underutilized Businesses” (HUB), which is issued by the state of North Carolina. While this certification is not necessary to contract with the City of Washington, HUB status provides businesses with opportunities for technical and financial assistance from federal and state agencies. As part of the ordinance, the City will maintain a registry of certified businesses that will be contacted in bid solicitations. Additional measures include dividing projects into smaller contracts to encourage participation, establishing delivery schedules to accommodate local businesses, and documenting compliance with these requirements.

To view the ordinance, visit <https://migration.unc.edu/washington-project/>.

To seek HUB certification, visit <https://ncadmin.nc.gov/businesses/hub/hub-certification>.

To add a business to the City registry, contact Jennifer Alligood, Purchasing Agent/Warehouse Manager at jalligood@washingtonnc.gov.

For more information about the Building Integrated Communities initiative at the Institute for the Study of the Americas, UNC Chapel Hill, visit <https://migration.unc.edu/building-integrated-communities/>.

