



Resolution Supporting the Alexandria BIPOC Business Community

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Whereas, in the context of COVID and the availability of relief funds, the City of Alexandria, following a series of community listening sessions, created a BIPOC Small Business Grant Program targeted towards businesses owned by individuals who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC).

Whereas, the program focused on small businesses, recognizing the existence of inequities for many BIPOC-owned businesses that did not receive vital support during the peak of the crisis.

Whereas, the proposed grant program would have allocated from \$1,000 to \$7,000 to Alexandria-based BIPOC-owned small businesses to address inequities they faced recently from the pandemic and historically due to structural barriers and discriminatory financial lending practices.

Whereas, the program has been canceled after a right-wing politically motivated lawsuit that claimed discrimination and that can be described as a partisan attack and a shameful attempt to promote the MAGA agenda and hinder the progress of people of color in this country.

Whereas, the law firm that was involved in the lawsuit against the City of Alexandria has ties to the former president, was responsible for key provisions of the Voting Rights Act being removed, and is currently involved with efforts to overturn Affirmative Action.

Whereas, the City of Alexandria should not be intimidated into betraying our community values of equity and inclusion by politically motivated interest groups, in recognition that BIPOC-owned businesses are a vital part of the Alexandria economy and community as a whole, and that investments in Alexandria BIPOC-owned businesses are long overdue and would benefit us all.

Therefore be it resolved that:

We, the Alexandria Democratic Committee, recognizing the importance of investing in minority businesses in Alexandria and with strong support from the community,

1. Stand in solidarity with our Alexandria BIPOC business community and will serve as a brick wall against efforts to damage it;

2. Call upon Democratic candidates to commit themselves to pursue initiatives that support the BIPOC business community and to promote Alexandria's values of equity and inclusion; and
3. Encourage the City of Alexandria to implement another program that will invest the proposed funds as well as additional funds into the BIPOC business community.

References:

1. <https://patch.com/virginia/oldtownalexandria/amp/31179401/minority-business-grant-lawsuit-led-by-firm-that-worked-for-trump-gop>
2. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2023/02/16/alexandria-scraps-grants-minority-businesses/>
3. <https://www.alxnow.com/2023/01/31/notes-law-firm-in-minority-owned-business-grant-lawsuit-has-ties-to-trump/>
4. <https://www.alxnow.com/2023/01/27/alexandria-minority-business-groups-decry-lawsuit-over-grant-funding/>