

For Immediate Release

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City of New Orleans Disparity Study Announces Rescheduled Public Meeting Dates

Initially Postponed Due to Hurricane Harvey

NEW ORLEANS - As part of the 2017 City of New Orleans Disparity Study, Keen Independent Research is conducting two public meetings as an opportunity to collect input for the study. Rescheduled due to Hurricane Harvey, The public meetings will be held on Thursday, October 5, 2017 from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Training, Resource, and Assistive Technology Center located at Oliver St. Pe' Center Room 101 at University of New Orleans 2000 Lakeshore Drive, New Orleans, LA 70148. During the public meetings, participants will have the opportunity to voice their experiences with local procurement opportunities as a part of the research component of the study.

Last call for businesses and managers to respond to the email survey of New Orleans businesses (closing Monday, September 18): www.noladisparitystudy.com.

The disparity study is analyzing conditions for minority- and women-owned firms in the local area. "The public meetings and surveys are critical components of our research process," said David Keen, Principal of Keen Independent Research. "It is imperative to hear directly from business owners about their experiences in the New Orleans marketplace."

The New Orleans Disparity Study began in January 2017. The study team is analyzing City construction, professional services, goods and other service contracts awarded from 2012 through 2016. Later this year, Keen Independent will present preliminary results for public review. The study team will then complete a final report in early 2018.

The study results will help the City of New Orleans improve its efforts to help minority- and women-owned firms and other small businesses access City contract opportunities.

For more information, email NOLADisparityStudy@keenindependent.com or visit www.noladisparitystudy.com.

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About the Disparity Study

The City of New Orleans Disparity Study, led by Keen Independent Research alongside local consultants, aims to analyze whether there is a level playing field for minority- and women-owned firms when competing for City contracts. Disparity study results will help the City determine if its existing State and Local Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (SLDBE) Program is effective and if additional action is needed. This disparity study includes collection and evaluation of any evidence of disparities or other evidence of discrimination affecting minority- and women-owned businesses in the public and private sector within the local marketplace. The study will include both quantitative and qualitative information about marketplace conditions.

About Keen Independent Research

After many years leading other consulting firms in 2011, Annette Humm Keen and Dave Keen formed Keen Independent Research to provide focused assistance to businesses, non-profits and government agencies. Keen Independent Research LLC is an economic research firm that specializes in disparity studies. The firm works with small start-ups to large organizations, leading projects from \$10,000 to \$2 million. It has staff through the country, including New Orleans. David Keen, Annette Humm Keen (Principals) and Leslie Parker (Consultant) are leading The City of New Orleans Disparity Study.