

2018 BizFed Leadership Roundtable Series

Michael Owh

Los Angeles Chief Procurement Officer

LOS ANGELES – June 15, 2018



If you are interested in or currently have contracts with the City of Los Angeles, BizFed's eleventh roundtable of its Leadership Roundtable Series of 2018 with Los Angeles Chief Procurement Officer Michael Owh was the place to be. Hosted by AC Martin in downtown Los Angeles, the 90 minutes of conversation provided valuable information on the procurement process of the City.

With his previous experience as Director of the NYC Mayor's Office of Contract Services and Chief Procurement Officer, Owh has stated that his objectives are to build on the work of the "O Team" (Garcetti's Operations Innovation Team), focusing on improving the City's core business systems, deliver operational efficiency and maximize the value of taxpayer dollars. "Our procurement process is vital to the operation of the City, and I look forward to making the procurement process more strategic and inclusive in order to deliver the best value and services to our residents."



Owh proceeded to discuss the Next Generation Procurement in Los Angeles with the goals of 1. Simplifying the process 2. Maximizing value 3. Increasing access and 4. Maintaining integrity. He understands that the public procurement process feels like a maze and currently the "flawed procurement process is the single biggest obstacle to a city's operational objectives". Owh presented to the participants a project approach to tackling the procurement process as its transformation requires changes to business process, legal framework and technology. The transformation has a 36 month timeline.

The end results should be an improved process that increases access for emerging and disadvantaged businesses. It's equitable with a fair, level playing field for all. It will improve City contract and business performance management and be more responsible.

2018 BizFed Leadership Roundtable Series

Michael Owh

Los Angeles Chief Procurement Officer

The process will be modern and simplified. Increased efficiency with faster cycle times will bring best value to the City. Accountability will be evident with regular and actionable data reporting that enables data-driven decisions.



BizFed members informed Owh of their experiences with the current delayed, outdated and cumbersome procurement process. Dropping off their RFP in person wastes time and this can be accomplished by submitting online. Owh agreed and simply stated that this is unacceptable. Perfect example for changing the process.

BizFed members also made know that transparency must be increased. Small business opportunities are not known, it's not filtered down. Virginia Gomez commented that it's important for all to have the information not just the general managers of departments.

NAWBO asked about statewide and universal certification. Owh responded that he's been told that it's impossible, but he will work through it.

Michael Owh offered BizFed members to hold him accountable. He pledged to return within a year to talk about the improvements to the process. There will be an invitation, he was assured!



Roundtable participants: Steve Bullock, Yair Crane, Jim Dixon, Angela Gibson-Shaw, Kevin Harbour, John Hakel, Dennis Huang, Matt Klink, Lara Larramendi, Millard Lee, Bob Murring, Bonnie Nijst, Hilary Norton, Kyle Peterson, Schenae Rourke, Jane Skeeter, Sarah Wiltfong and Will Wright.