



CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

NC Board Chairman Marcello Banes



Newton County is filled with talented people operating excellent companies of all shapes and sizes in all fields. Unfortunately, a lot of those companies have gone under-utilized when it comes to contracts awarded for work with the Newton County government.

Tuesday, the Board of Commissioners adopted a procurement policy to better reach out to all companies in Newton County and utilize businesses owned by every race, color, creed and gender. It is now Newton County's goal to award 30 percent of its contracts to minority business enterprises in the calendar year of 2021.

This is a goal, not a quota, to ensure that we are using all of the business resources available to us in Newton County and our region.

Along with following its current purchasing and procurement policies, Newton County will do the following to welcome the participation of minority businesses:

- Develop and maintain a list of minority business enterprises that provide goods and services likely to be purchased by the County
- When advertising all contracts on the Georgia Procurement Registry, the County shall indicate that minority businesses are encouraged to apply
- Make a list of minority businesses available to department heads
- Encourage all of its contractors to subcontract with minority businesses

These new policies will ensure that we are utilizing as much of our community as possible as we build new buildings, provide new services and utilize goods for our entire community.

Newton County will always select the best and most financially responsible contractors for its work through our bid and procurement policies. This new addition to our procurement policy encourages the expansion of businesses we use, and therefore will increase the quality companies that provide the work, goods and services for Newton County.

Not only is this a great thing for Newton County government but also will help the minority and female-owned companies in Newton County get work.

Newton County recognizes that, due to the general historical underrepresentation of minority business enterprises in access to procurement awards, creating a truly equal competitive playing field may require outreach efforts to ensure that such opportunities are advertised and made fully available.

I am excited to be a part of our commitment to seeking out minority businesses as we continue to grow Newton County. I look forward to working to make the 30 percent become a reality.

This is another big step toward #OneNewton and I am proud that this action was taken by the Board of Commissioners.

See the full procurement policy [here](#).

**Due to unforeseen circumstances I regret not being able to talk directly to you regarding this subject via video but look forward to resuming videos in future Chairman's Corners.*