

PRESS RELEASE

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ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR MARTIN A. SANDOVAL AND CHICAGO MINORITY SUPPLIER DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL SIGN HISTORIC MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

CHICAGO, IL - On Tuesday, July 17, 2018, Illinois State Senator Martin A. Sandoval (D-Chicago) and Chicago Minority Supplier Development Council (ChicagoMSDC) President & CEO Shelia Morgan signed a memorandum of understanding to combine efforts to increase minority participation in state contracting. The historic event took place during ChicagoMSDC Minority Business Enterprise Input Committee's MBE 2 MBE Exchange hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

"Who would have known that a kid from the Back of the Yards would be speaking at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago today working to unite the Southwest Side of Chicago," said Senator Sandoval, Chairman of the Special Committee on Supplier Diversity. "Today marks the beginning of a long road ahead to bring about economic justice to all the minorities that have been forgotten for generations, and I will not stop until we succeed!"

Senator Sandoval, who represents Illinois' 11th District, reiterated his dedication to the advancement of opportunities for minority business enterprises, highlighting his long-standing devotion to promote and advance legislature to increase supplier diversity programs among corporate procurement departments, which led him to establish a Senate Special Committee on Supplier Diversity with the support of Senate President John J. Cullerton.

"We now stand shoulder to shoulder ready to become a beacon of hope for the communities we serve and live in," Sandoval said. "This is how you combat crime and homelessness in Illinois. Expanding opportunities and creating jobs is how we will achieve peace on the Southside where I grew up."

ChicagoMSDC has been a thought leader in minority business since its founding in 1968, advocating for supplier diversity as the key to economic empowerment in the minority community. An Illinois nonprofit organization, ChicagoMSDC CERTIFIES African American, Asian American, Hispanic American and Native American owned businesses of all sizes and across a wide range of industries, DEVELOPS them through educational programming, CONNECTS them with resources and corporate buyers, and tirelessly ADVOCATES on their behalf in the public and private sectors. As the premier supplier-development organization in the country, ChicagoMSDC works closely with government agencies and officials to ensure equal access to opportunities for its Minority Business Enterprises.

In support of their mutual mission, ChicagoMSDC and Senator Sandoval agreed to enter into a relationship for the purpose of identifying and promoting supplier diversity programs and dedicating resources to encourage and support efforts to increase supplier diversity across the State of Illinois.

“We are proud to be a part of this momentous undertaking with Senator Sandoval and eager to forge stronger partnerships between the public and private sectors on the federal and local levels as well,” said Shelia Morgan. “Senator Sandoval is a true champion of minority entrepreneurs and ChicagoMSDC is grateful for his unwavering support of supplier diversity and inclusion throughout the state of Illinois.”