DOING BUSINESS ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE DOING BUSINESS DATA FORM

What is the purpose of this *Data Form*?

To collect accurate, up-to-date identification information about entities that have business dealings with the City of New York in order to comply with Local Law 34 of 2007 (LL 34), the recently passed campaign finance reform law. LL 34 limits municipal campaign contributions from principal officers, owners and senior managers of entities doing business with the City and mandates the creation of a *Doing Business Database* to allow the City to enforce the law. The information requested in this *Data Form* must be provided, regardless of whether the entity or the people associated with it make or intend to make campaign contributions. No sensitive personal information collected will be disclosed to the public.

Why have I received this *Data Form*?

The contract, franchise, concession, grant or economic development agreement you are proposing on, applying for or have already been awarded is considered a business dealing with the City under LL 34. No proposal or application will be considered and no award will be made unless this *Data Form* is completed. Most transactions valued at more than $5,000 are considered business dealings and require completion of the *Data Form*. Exceptions include transactions awarded on an emergency basis or by publicly advertised, non-pre-qualified, competitive sealed bid. Other types of transactions that are considered business dealings include real property and land use actions with the City.

What entities will be included in the *Doing Business Database*?

Entities that hold $100,000 or more in grants, contracts for goods or services, franchises or concessions ($500,000 for construction contracts), and entities that hold any economic development agreement or pension fund investment contract, are considered to be doing business with the City for the purposes of LL 34 and will be included in the *Database*. Because all of the business that an entity does or proposes to do with the City will be added together, the *Data Form* must be completed for all covered transactions even if an entity does not currently do enough business with the City to be listed in the *Database*.

What individuals will be included in the *Doing Business Database*?

The principal officers, owners and certain senior managers of entities listed in the *Doing Business Database* are themselves considered to be doing business with the City and will also be included in the *Database*.

- **Principal Officers** are the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Chief Operating Officer (COO), or their functional equivalents. See the *Data Form* for examples of titles that apply.
- **Principal Owners** are individuals who own or control 10% of more of the entity. This includes stockholders, partners and anyone else with an ownership or controlling interest in the entity.
- **Senior Managers** include anyone who, either by job title or actual duties, has substantial discretion and high-level oversight regarding the solicitation, letting or administration of any contract, concession, franchise, grant or economic development agreement with the City. At least one Senior Manager must be listed or the Data Form will be considered incomplete.

I have already completed a *Doing Business Data Form*; do I have to submit another one?

Yes. An entity is required to submit a *Doing Business Data Form* each time it enters into a transaction considered a business dealing with the City, including contract, concession and franchise proposals. However, the *Data Form* has both a Change option, which requires only information that has changed since the last *Data Form* was filed, and a No Change option. No entity should have to fill out the entire *Data Form* more than once.

If you have already submitted a *Data Form* for one transaction type (such as a contract), and this is the first time you are completing a *Data Form* for a different transaction type (such as a grant), please select the Change option and complete Section 4 (Senior Managers) for the new transaction type.

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Will the information on this *Data Form* be available to the public?

The names and titles of the officers, owners and senior managers reported on the *Data Form* will be made available to the public, as will information about the entity itself. However, personal identifying information, such as home address, home phone and date of birth, will not be disclosed to the public, and home address and phone number information will not be used for communication purposes.

I provided some of this information on the VENDEX Questionnaire; do I have to provide it again?

Although the *Doing Business Data Form* and the VENDEX Questionnaire request some of the same information, they serve entirely different purposes. In addition, the *Data Form* requests information concerning senior managers, which is not part of the VENDEX Questionnaire.

No one in my organization plans to contribute to a candidate; do I have to fill out this *Data Form*?

Yes. All entities are required to return this *Data Form* with complete and accurate information, regardless of the history or intention of the entity or its officers, owners or senior managers to make campaign contributions. The *Doing Business Database* must be complete so that the Campaign Finance Board can verify whether future contributions are in compliance with the law.

My organization is proposing on a contract with another firm as a Joint Venture that does not exist yet; how should the Data Form be completed?

A joint venture that does not yet exist must submit a Data Form for each of its component firms. If the joint venture receives the award, it must then complete a form in the name of the joint venture.

How does a person remove him/herself from the *Doing Business Database*?

Any person who believes that s/he should not be listed may apply for removal from the *Database* by submitting a Request for Removal. Reasons that a person would be removed include his/her no longer being the principal officer, owner or senior manger of the entity, or the entity no longer doing business with the City. Entities may also update their database information by submitting an update form. These forms are available online at www.nyc.gov/mocs (once there, click MOCS Programs) or by calling 212-788-8104.

How long will an entity and its officers, owners and senior managers remain listed on the *Doing Business Database*?

- **Contract, Concession and Economic Development Agreement holders**: generally for the term of the transaction, plus one year.
- **Franchise and Grant holders**: from the commencement or renewal of the transaction, plus one year.
- **Pension investment contracts**: from the time of presentation on an investment opportunity or the submission of a proposal, whichever is earlier, until the end of the contract, plus one year.
- **Line item and discretionary appropriations**: from the date of budget adoption until the end of the contract, plus one year.
- **Contract proposers**: for one year from the proposal date or date of public advertisement of the solicitation, whichever is later.
- **Franchise and Concession proposers**: for one year from the proposal submission date.

For information on other transaction types, contact the Doing Business Accountability Project.

What are the new campaign contribution limits for people doing business with the City?

Contributions to City Council candidates are limited to $250 per election cycle; $320 to Borough President candidates; and $400 to candidates for citywide office. Please contact the NYC Campaign Finance Board for more information at www.nyccfb.info, or 212-306-7100.

The *Data Form* is to be returned to the City office that issued it.

If you have any questions about the *Data Form* please contact the Doing Business Accountability Project at 212-788-8104 or DoingBusiness@cityhall.nyc.gov.