

**PERMANENT DEBARMENT OF MJ INVESTMENTS & DEVELOPMENT CO.; LAKESIDE CONSULTANT & CONSTRUCTION, INC.; MONICA DENTLEY; DARIUS MEAUX; UNIVERSAL C & M SERVICES, INC.; SCC DEVELOPMENT CORP.; DEIDRA WASHINGTON; AND CLARENCE THOMAS
OIG REPORT NO. 17-00950**

THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Education of the City of Chicago (“Board”) permanently debar MJ Investments & Development Co.; Lakeside Consultant & Construction, Inc.; Monica Dentley; Darius Meaux; Universal C & M Services, Inc.; SCC Development Corp.; Deidra Washington; and Clarence Thomas (collectively “Respondents”) from doing any business with the Board.

The Board’s Chief Procurement Officer served Respondents with a Notice of Proposed Debarment on September 10, 2021, initiating debarment proceedings against Respondents based on Section 2(b) and (k) of the Board’s Debarment Policy, CPS Board Rule 7-12, which provides for the purchase of goods and services through a competitive bid solicitation process, Section 10-20.21(a) of the Illinois School Code, which requires the Board to award contracts to the lowest responsible bidder, and the Illinois Criminal Code, which prohibits “stringing,” or knowingly structuring a contract or job order to avoid engaging in the competitive bidding requirements. Specifically, from fiscal years 2008 through 2017, Monica Dentley and Darius Meaux, a married couple, operated MJ Investments & Development Co. and Lakeside Consultant & Construction, Inc. as essentially a single entity for the purpose of obtaining multiple CPS contracts, the combined value of which exceeded \$10,000, without engaging in the competitive bidding process. During fiscal years 2011, 2012 and 2015, Deidra Washington and Clarence Thomas, also a married couple, operated Universal C & M Services, Inc. and SCC Development Corp. to split CPS contracts in excess of \$10,000 without participating in the formal bidding process. Respondents have failed to submit a written response to the Notice as required by Section 4(d) of the Board’s Debarment Policy. As such, all allegations in the Notice are deemed admitted. See Debarment Policy, §4(d). The Chief Operating Officer has reviewed the record (as defined in Section 4.5(10) of the Debarment Policy), including Investigative Report No. OIG 17-00950, and recommends permanent debarment.

Based on the facts set forth in the record as defined in Section 4.5(10) of the Board’s Debarment Policy, the Chief Operating Officer recommends that the Board permanently debar Respondent from doing any business with the Board effective immediately. All existing contracts between the Board and Respondents are terminated. Respondents are ineligible to act as a subcontractor or supplier to any existing or future Board contracts.

The Board adopts and approves the recommendation of the Chief Operating Officer.

LSC REVIEW: LSC approval is not applicable to this report.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATUS: Affirmative Action review is not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL: None.

GENERAL CONDITIONS: None.

APPROVED:
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Crystal Cooper
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Interim Chief Operating Officer

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:
DocuSigned by:

Joseph T. Moriarty DS
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JOSEPH T. MORIARTY
General Counsel