



News Release

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County Business Commission to Hold Hearing on Procurement

The Pima County Small Business Commission will hold a public hearing on professional services procurement on Thursday, February 4, 2010 at 9:00 A.M. in the County Board of Supervisors Chambers.

The purpose of the hearing is to listen to testimony from professional service firms on the County's present procurement practices with regard to the selecting of qualified professional services such as architects, engineers, and appraisers, according to Tom Ward, chairman of the Commission.

The Commission is particularly interested Ward said, "in ways to evaluate local versus national professional services firms, since recently there has been some concern expressed regarding national firms receiving professional services work at the expense of local firms." At its November 19, 2009 meeting, the Commission was asked by the Board of Supervisors to hold a public hearing on this matter.

"This public hearing is neither a whitewash nor a witch hunt. It is an attempt by the Commission--composed of Pima County small business owners--to give professional

services providers--many of whom are small business owners--an opportunity to enhance the procurement process and expand their own opportunities for profitable business," Ward said.

The 11-member Commission was established by the Board of Supervisors in March 2003. It is composed of small business owners--less than 100 employees--located in Pima County. In October 2009, at the Commission's request, it was given authority by the Board to hold public hearings. The February 4, 2010 meeting is the Commission's first public hearing. It will provide a preliminary report to the Board on February 16, 2010, and a final report with recommendations in mid-March.

The Commission will accept written testimony at its office, 33 North Stone Ave., Suite 700, Tucson, AZ 85701, up to the day of the hearing.