



February 28, 2023

**Bracane Company's response to Executive Order 13985 on Further
Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities
Through the Federal Government**

The Bracane Company commends the Biden Administration in its efforts to advance racial equity and support for underserved communities through the Federal Government. Bracane Company, as a Minority and Women-Owned Small Business itself supports the initiative taken by this administration to build a strong, fair, and inclusive workforce by advancing equitable procurement as outlined in Sec. 7 (a).

This executive order establishes Agency Equity teams meant to mitigate economic displacement, expand access to capital, build community wealth, advance equity in health and ensure equitable procurement practices.

This document although impressive lends itself to question and concerns of Bracane Company leadership and perhaps other small businesses. Historically, small businesses that for which programs are developed are often not the first recipients of the benefits of the programs as evidenced by the recent programs set up for Paycheck Protection Program and EIDL programs. Therefore, we understand that teams led by the Steering Committee established in Sec. 2 (b) that monitor agencies' activities and promote accountability, Bracane Company as an Economically Disadvantaged Minority-Woman Owned Business requests assurance of the manner in which the Steering Committee will ensure that Agency Equity teams are taking ambitious steps toward more equitable outcomes? Second, in response to Sec. 2. (b)(I), what ways will the Steering Committee coordinate Government-wide efforts to advance equity? The task is open-ended and as a small business owner, would the government consider having small business owners and organizations that support equity at the table to hear our voices?

As established in Sec 3., each agency is responsible for the implementation of equity strategies that uses the agency's policy, budget, programs, procurement, and grantmaking to yield equitable outcomes. Additionally, as expressed in Sec 3. (b)(IV) each agency's equity plan shall describe how the agency intends to meaningfully engage with underserved communities. On behalf of Minority-Owned Small Businesses, is there a way to ensure meaningful strategic contact with agency teams? Furthermore, in the development of agency equity strategy, what

defines small business? What policies will be enforced to ensure that there is meaningful representation from underserved and minority groups throughout the equity-building process; and how can representatives give feedback?

The order provides confidence that this administration is dedicated to making a plausible effort to reduce the financial disparities that plague communities yet leaves to question many questions of how and when the efforts will begin and can the efforts be sustained.

The Bracane Company wholeheartedly endorses Executive Order 13985 and expresses full support of the equity-driven initiatives of the Biden Administration. By advancing equity, we by extension advance policy that can uplift and support all Americans equally in creation of a powerful, collaborative workforce.