



New York State
Department of Economic Development
Division of Minority and Women's
Business Development

In the Matter of the Appeal of

**Reliant Staffing Systems, Inc., d/b/a Career
Start**

FINAL ORDER 23-06

From a denial of certification as a Women-owned Business Enterprise pursuant to Executive Law Article 15-A.

This order arises from an administrative appeal brought by Bluestone Renovations, Inc., ("Reliant Staffing" or "Appellant") pursuant to New York Executive Law Article 15-A and Title 5 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations. Appellant seeks reversal of the decision of the Division of Minority and Women's Business Development (the "Division"), dated June 28, 2019, to deny Reliant Staffing's January 5, 2018 certification application as a Woman-owned Business Enterprise ("WBE").

Appellant requested an administrative hearing by a letter received on July 19, 2019, and upon notice to the parties via electronic mail and regular mail, dated May 19, 2023, a pre-hearing conference was scheduled for June 7, 2023, using the Zoom videoconferencing platform. The notice of the pre-hearing conference advised the Appellant that failure to appear and failure to request a new date on or before the date of the pre-hearing conference would be considered a default. The video conference invitation was sent by the Administrative Hearings Unit to the Appellant on May 25, 2023. The Appellant failed to accept the meeting invitation, failed to appear at the pre-hearing conference, and failed to contact Division counsel or the Administrative Hearings Unit to request a new date. The Division was represented by Amy O'Connor, Esq., and Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") David A. Murad presided over the proceeding. During the pre-hearing conference, the Division made a motion to dismiss the review of the application based on the Appellant's failure to appear.

On June 23, 2023, the Division received a Recommended Order from ALJ Murad affirming the Division's denial of certification, based upon the Appellant's failure to appear at the pre-hearing conference. ALJ Murad found the Appellant in default and granted the Division's motion to dismiss the review of the Appellant's certification application.

After considering the appeal record, I accept the recommendation to affirm the denial determination. As noted in the Recommended Order, the Appellant in an administrative appeal bears the burden of proving the Division's denial of its WBE certification was not supported by substantial evidence. *See* 5 NYCRR § 145.2(b). Here, the Appellant failed to meet this burden of proof by failing to attend the pre-hearing conference. Further, "unless precluded by statute, disposition may be made of any adjudicatory proceeding by...default." New York State Administrative Procedure Act § 301(5). As such, the Division accepts the ALJ's recommendation to affirm the denial of certification based on Appellant's failure to appear.

It is hereby **ORDERED** that the decision to deny certification, dated June 28, 2019, is affirmed.

June 28, 2023



Jason M. Clark
Executive Vice President and Executive Director
Division of Minority and Women's Business Development