



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

---

In the matter of the appeal of

**G & E Officeworld, Inc., d/b/a Fern Office  
Supplies**

FINAL ORDER 19-24

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 on behalf of G & E Officeworld, Inc., d/b/a Fern Office Supplies ("G&E" or "Appellant") pursuant to section 144.2 of 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 July 11, 2017, to deny G&E certification as a Woman-owned Business Enterprise ("WBE").

Appellant initiated this appeal and requested a hearing on July 31, 2017. The Division subsequently notified Appellant that a hearing had been scheduled for December 18, 2018 for this matter to be heard. The hearing occurred as scheduled before Administrative Law Judge Maria E. Villa. Ms. Pearl Landau and Mr. Eli Landau appeared on behalf of G&E and Mr. Landau testified on G&E's behalf. Gretchen Robinson, Esq. represented the Division and Mr. Abdul Bah, Senior Certification Analyst, testified on behalf of the Division. The hearing concluded on that date and after receipt of the recording of the hearing on or about January 18, 2019, the record closed.

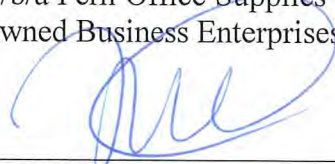
The issue on appeal was whether G&E sufficiently demonstrated that the woman owner relied upon for certification, Ms. Landau, shares in the risks and profits in proportion to her equity interest, as required by 5 NYCRR § 144.2(c)(2).

On or about January 22, 2019, the Division received a Recommended Order from Administrative Law Judge Villa that recommended affirmation of the Division's denial of the application to certify G&E as a WBE on the grounds set forth in the Division's July 11, 2017 denial letter.

After considering the appeal record, I accept the recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge as it pertains to the facts of this case. Incorporation by reference is hereby made with respect to the findings and conclusions of the Recommended Order.

It is hereby **ORDERED** that the decision to deny certification, dated July 11, 2017, is affirmed. Accordingly, G & E Officeworld, Inc., d/b/a Fern Office Supplies will not be listed in the Division's directory for Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises.

October 9, 2019



---

Valerie White  
Executive Director  
Division of Minority and Women's Business  
Development