#### NEW YORK STATE

# DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 207 GENESEE STREET UTICA, NEW YORK 13501

In the Matter

-of-

the Application of Safezone24, LLC

For certification as a Woman-owned Business Enterprise pursuant to Executive Law Article 15-A.

NYS DED File ID NO.: 66911

# **RECOMMENDED ORDER ON DEFAULT**

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David A. Murad Administrative Law Judge September 22, 2023

## **STATE OF NEW YORK**

### DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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In the Matter of the Appeal of:

SAFEZONE 24, LLC

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- against -

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,

Respondent.

Appellant,

RECOMMENDED ORDER ON DEFAULT

FILE ID: 66911

To review a determination denying an application for for certification as a Woman-owned Business Enterprise pursuant to Executive Law Article 15-A.

#### **APPEARANCES**

David A. Murad, Administrative Law Judge, New York State Department of Economic Development, and Kyle Satchell, Esq., for Respondent.

#### WHEREAS:

1. The above proceeding was commenced by the filing of an appeal, pursuant to New York Executive Law Article 15-A and Title 5 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York Parts 140-144, by Safezone24, LLC, to challenge the determination of the Division of Minority and Women's Business Development ("Division") that the applicant does not meet the eligibility requirements for certification as a Woman-owned Business Enterprise; and

2. The application for certification was received on February 5, 2019. The application was denied by the Division by a letter dated March 22, 2022. The Appellant thereafter filed a Request to Appeal which was received by the Division on April 26, 2022; and

3. Upon notice to the parties sent via electronic mail and regular mail, dated July 25, 2023, a prehearing conference was scheduled for August 29, 2023. The notice advised the Appellant that they would be considered in default if they did not appear for the pre-hearing conference and failed to request a new date on or before the date of the pre-hearing conference; and 4. The video conference invitation was sent via electronic mail on July 26, 2023 and was not accepted by the Appellant; and

5. The August 29, 2023 pre-hearing conference was adjourned at the request of the Division and the concurrence of Appellant; and

6. Appellant was contacted via electronic mail on August 28<sup>th</sup> and September 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> to reschedule the pre-hearing conference. Appellant repeatedly failed to respond; and

7. The video conference was then scheduled for September 12, 2023. Notice was sent to Appellant via electronic mail on September 11, 2023; and

8. Appellant failed to appear at the pre-hearing conference, and did not contact either counsel for the Division or the Administrative Hearings Unit; and

9. On administrative appeal, the Appellant bears the burden of proving that the Division's denial of Appellant's Women's Business Enterprise certification is not supported by substantial evidence (5 NYCRR §145.2(b)); and

10. At the September 12, 2023 pre-hearing conference, the Division made a motion to dismiss the review of the application, based on the Appellant's failure to appear.

# RECOMMENDATION

Based upon the Appellant's failure to appear at the pre-hearing conference, the Appellant should be deemed in default, the motion of the Division to dismiss the review of the application be granted and the application for review dismissed in accordance with State Administrative Procedure Act §301.5.

#### **PROOF OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on September 22, 2023, I caused to be served the foregoing document, the *New York State Department of Economic Development's Recommended Order on Default of the Appeal of Safezone24, LLC*, via Certified Mail with Return Receipt requested to the following:

Ms. Yehudit Mitnitsky Safezone24, LLC 1173 Lincoln Place Brooklyn, NY 11213

Carlora Turnquest