



Statement from the Newly Elected Chairman

As the new Chair of the Jackson County Sports Authority, I wanted to take this moment to thank all of you who supported the renovation of Kauffman and Arrowhead Stadiums, and to tell you how much my fellow board members and I are proud of this project.

Over the last few years, I have had the opportunity to serve as First Vice Chair, and also on the committee for Maintenance and Development as a committee member, I took the MBE/WBE participation very seriously. I now have the honor to serve as Chair, and I pledge to continue the momentum we have created by ensuring participation from local, minority, and women-owned companies - especially as we begin to see the new Arrowhead Stadium take shape.

I look forward to working with my fellow board members, our staff, and both Royals and Chiefs officials, on not only these projects, but in the future as well.

Sincerely,

J. Beto Lopez

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WBE Firms at Work

The construction crews that renovated Kauffman and Arrowhead stadiums left behind a lot of dirt, dust and rubble. So "cleaning-up-the-mess" professionals were needed for the project.

Among the "clean up professionals" were Rhonda Shoemaker and Valerie Potter. Shoemaker, president of Midwest Contracting Services LLC, has hauled off tons of demolition debris and dirt from both work sites. And Potter's street-sweeping business, Delta Sweeping Co., has cleared lighter amounts of dirt and debris from the construction areas.

The two businesses did not work together, but they were among the numerous women-owned companies that have been part of the renovation work force. Shoemaker, who has more than 20 years of experience in the construction business, said MBE/WBE initiatives for taxpayer-funded projects like the stadium renovations have given her an opportunity to build more business relationships with area contractors.

Shoemaker prefers to obtain work based on her performance rather than a government mandate, but sees the benefit of the program. "Once I get my foot in the door, I want people to call me back not because I am a woman or in a program but because I do what I say I am going to do and do quality work," Shoemaker said.

Potter, the majority owner of Delta Sweeping, said she knew little about the WBE program when her mother died and left her the business four years ago. "I had to go to City Hall and fill out a lot

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of paper work," she said. "The city wanted my whole life story, but it was worth it. I would tell any woman to become a WBE. It helps your business and the outcome will be tremendous." Like Shoemaker, Potter said she wants to pick up work because of her company's track record of dependable work. "Our hard work has contributed to our success," Potter said.

Shoemaker has owned Midwest Contracting Services for four years. The company is headquartered in Raytown and has worked on some of the area's biggest construction projects of recent years, including the Sprint Center, Kauffman Performing Arts Center, H&R Block headquarters and the Power & Light District. Shoemaker said she was proud to be part of those projects. "They are exciting projects and are wonderful for our local economy," she said. For the stadium renovations, Shoemaker's company has sub-contracted with several contractors that did excavations and demolitions. The stadium renovation project required strict punctuality. "There were a lot of time constraints," Shoemaker said. "Our work had to get done immediately so that other trades could move in and get started on their work."

Delta Sweeping also sub-contracted for several contractors on the Kauffman Stadium project. Crews were responsible for picking up debris that haulers and contractors left behind. "Our job was to make it look like nothing was there before," Potter said.

Delta Sweeping, which employs 18 people and owns 17 trucks, does sweeping for numerous asphaltting and slurry jobs plus a few city street sweeping jobs. Potter said the Kauffman Stadium project was different in that the work was done in a huge outdoor parking space. "Our crews drove in a lot of circles around those lots," Potter said. "You can get dizzy doing that."



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