

Dear Community Leaders,

We are writing in response to the previous emails from Dee Williams.

At Green Built Alliance we have a commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. It is a part of why we do weatherization work in the community. Our work with UCD over the past three years has broadened our network and connection to these efforts. In summer 2023 we are launching a youth workforce development program focused on BIPOC youth to provide opportunities for weatherization jobs in our community.

We have not discriminated against any organization, community member, client, staff person, or volunteer. There is a great need for racial healing and equity in our community and we strive every day to support affordable, efficient, safe and comfortable housing for the clients we serve.

While Buncombe County is 90% white our client racial makeup is:

White - (52.68%)

Black - (24.09%)

Latine - (21.9%)

Asian - (1.33%)

Other - (0.6%)

UCD has been a subcontractor to GBA for weatherization services for the past three years. During our work with United Community Development several challenges have emerged that make us realize that it is best to not seek a new contract with them next fiscal year.

The main reasons for releasing UCD as a subcontractor are:

- The need for complete client and project data upon project completion. Almost each month we need to follow up with them or the client to retrieve necessary documentation.
- The need to run blower door tests for projects. This supports a better project for the client and allows us to qualify for Duke incentives. We had been training them but they stopped the training. We offered to supply them with a blower door, but they said they didn't want to run these types of tests.
- We received some client feedback that some measures they performed weren't installed properly. When we offered to provide them some more training and do verification of their projects they refused.
- We have staff on board that have the skills and training to take on the extra 40 projects a year that UCD was doing as a subcontractor. We are also doing a BIPOC youth workforce development program this summer with ESN that will bring more capacity for projects.

We have respect for Dee, Brad and James and worked closely with them for three years. The need for a shift in the contract is not personal or racially biased. We greatly appreciate the work they have done for the community and hope that goodwill and collaboration can continue. We

have really had a positive relationship with them and done our best to be accominating despite the challenges mentioned above.

Over the past five years we have provided weatherization for over 950 homes. This effort has been funded by the City of Asheville, Buncombe County, Dogwood Trust and private donors. We perform 3rd party measurement and verification of our projects. Through the support of these entities these services have benefited the lives of many people in our community. We hope to continue to do energy efficiency upgrades for low income families and appreciate the chance to work with you all and the many community partners we collaborate with to boost energy affordability and the well being of residents.

Any thoughts you have on this matter and how to approach it are welcome.

thank you,
Sam