



DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES  
CITY OF CHICAGO

APR 09 2015

Carmen Maldonado  
La Criolla, Inc.  
907-09 West Randolph Street  
Chicago, IL 60607-2291

Dear Carmen Maldonado:

We are pleased to inform you that **La Criolla, Inc.** has been recertified as a **Minority-Owned Business Enterprise ("MBE")** and **Women-Owned Business Enterprise ("WBE")** by the City of Chicago ("City"). This **MBE/WBE** certification is valid until **12/1/2017**; however your firm's certification must be revalidated annually. In the past the City has provided you with an annual letter confirming your certification; such letters will no longer be issued. As a consequence, we require you to be even more diligent in filing your **annual No-Change Affidavit 60 days** before your annual anniversary date.

It is now your responsibility to check the City's certification directory and verify your certification status. As a condition of continued certification during the five year period stated above, you must file an annual No-Change Affidavit. Your firm's **annual No-Change Affidavit** is due by **12/1/2015 and 12/1/2016**. Please remember, you have an affirmative duty to file your **No-Change Affidavit 60 days** prior to the date of expiration. Failure to file your annual No-Change Affidavit may result in the suspension or rescission of your certification.

Your firm's five year certification will expire on **12/1/2017**. You have an affirmative duty to file for recertification **60 days** prior to the date of the five year anniversary date. Therefore, you must file for recertification by **10/1/2017**.

It is important to note that you also have an ongoing affirmative duty to notify the City of any changes in ownership or control of your firm, or any other fact affecting your firm's eligibility for certification **within 10 days** of such change. These changes may include but are not limited to a change of address, change of business structure, change in ownership or ownership structure, change of business operations, gross receipts and/or personal net worth that exceed the program threshold. Failure to provide the City with timely notice of such changes may result in the suspension or rescission of your certification. In addition, you may be liable for civil penalties under Chapter 1-22, "False Claims", of the Municipal Code of Chicago.

Please note – you shall be deemed to have had your certification lapse and will be ineligible to participate as a **MBE/WBE** if you fail to:

- File your annual No-Change Affidavit within the required time period;

- Provide financial or other records requested pursuant to an audit within the required time period;
- Notify the City of any changes affecting your firm's certification **within 10 days** of such change; or
- File your recertification within the required time period.

Please be reminded of your contractual obligation to cooperate with the City with respect to any reviews, audits or investigation of its contracts and affirmative action programs. We strongly encourage you to assist us in maintaining the integrity of our programs by reporting instances or suspicions of fraud or abuse to the **City's Inspector General at [chicagoinspectorgeneral.org](http://chicagoinspectorgeneral.org), or 866-IG-TIPLINE (866-448-4754).**

Be advised that if you or your firm is found to be involved in certification, bidding and/or contractual fraud or abuse, the City will pursue decertification and debarment. In addition to any other penalty imposed by law, any person who knowingly obtains, or knowingly assists another in obtaining a contract with the City by falsely representing the individual or entity, or the individual or entity assisted is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by incarceration in the county jail for a period not to exceed six months, or a fine of not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$10,000 or both.

Your firm's name will be listed in the City's Directory of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises in the specialty area(s) of:

**NAICS Code(s):**

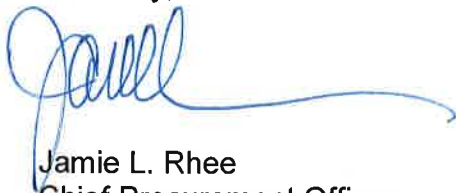
**311942 - Spice and Extract Manufacturing**

**424490 – Grocery and Related Products Merchant Wholesalers**

Your firm's participation on City contracts will be credited only toward **Minority-Owned Business Enterprise and Women-Owned Business Enterprise** goals in your area(s) specialty. While your participation on City contracts is not limited to your area of specialty, credit toward goals will be given only for work that is self-performed and providing a commercially useful function that is done in the approved specialty category.

Thank you for your interest in the City's Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) Program.

Sincerely,



Jamie L. Rhee  
Chief Procurement Officer

JLR/do