

Roy Donahue Peebles – The Peebles Corporation
Sought 0% Minority Businesses Requirement
Broward County Convention Center

Peebles proposed over 25% minority participation goal, when it came to signing the contract, Peebles had the minority hiring goal removed entirely and the total dollars awarded to minority firms to be \$0. That is Don Peebles' commitment to MWBE and small businesses.

*PEEBLES UNILATERALLY SOUGHT TO REMOVE MINORITY PARTICIPATION.
BROWARD COUNTY FOUGHT TO KEEP THE MINORITY PARTICIPATION GOAL.*

TRANSCRIPT: Broward County Board of Commissioners (June 26, 2001),

Link:

https://www.municode.com/library/fl/broward_county/munidocs/electronic_minutes?no_deld=M724JUNE-26-2001HTML

COMMISSIONER GUNZBURGER: If anything is opened up, because I had really understood that we were to finalize the deal as we agreed to today, and if there were problems, that's what the two-week window was for. To solve the problems between PADC [Peebles] and Broward County. Without Mr. Peebles here, there is no one that can agree to anything. As far as I know, in the past his representatives have not agreed on his behalf. They always have to take it back to him. Which is a problem.

And, if anything is opened, I have a very important issue that has to be reopened. And, the issue I have that has to be reopened is the fact that – now that we are contributing between 8 and \$11,000,000 to this project, **there are no minority construction goals for this project.** And, if we reopen it – that's going to be very important to this Commissioner that there are minority construction goals and that had never before been agreed to.

COMMISSIONER PARRISH: I disagree with no minority goals. I appreciate the staff response, but I totally disagree with it. It's a \$6,000,000 project. That's engineering and construction, but I believe with engineering, they can, you know, sub out a portion of those services and there should be minority goals attached to this. You know, we heard what a horrible job we were doing, how we needed to improve. I think all of us have been very diligent in reviewing items, reviewing the different proposals that have been brought before us at Selection and Negotiation, but we need some help from staff, because I believe that there are ways to find -- perhaps this is specialized construction, but I believe every -- you can -- You can find construction management with respect to drawings.

There are a variety of ways to add minority goals, so I believe that we approve this contingent upon the staff putting in the appropriate minority goals for the project. It's

just like this morning we heard with Green Advertising that they would give us a minority goal for the non-ad work, you know, any kind of advertising we were buying in a publication, they couldn't give us any minority goals on that. Then come to find out when you push them a little harder they came back with a 20 percent minority goals for the entire project. This is \$6,000,000 overall. I believe we approve it contingent upon the staff adding the appropriate minority goal, and that's my motion.

COMMISSIONER JACOBS: So, I, I, too have problems that Mr. Peebles chose to take a vacation to France when he knew way back in May that this date was set. And, I'm very frustrated. Extremely frustrated with the process that we seem to find ourself in again.

COMMISSIONER PARRISH: Mine is to approve the establishment of the Selection/Negotiation Committee and to direct them to add minority goals. It's 25 percent of \$6 million. That's a lot of money.

THE CHAIR: If possible. It comes down to again, if possible. If it's not possible, that's a different situation. I mean you know, if our EEOC people come back and say yes, it can be done, then fine. If they say it's impossible --

COMMISSIONER PARRISH: There has to be some civil engineering in the project.

THE CHAIR: That's what the question the S and N Committee should raise.

COMMISSIONER PARRISH: -- African-American Civil Engineers, plus another minority.

COMMISSIONER GRABER: All right. All right. If I could make a comment.

One of the most important things in having a deal is that you have to trust the people you are working with. And, I think it was just a month ago I remember saying that we should not change this date at all, not even change it to an afternoon. That we should leave it exactly as is as we agreed to so that we would all be here. Now, I can't understand why Mr. Peebles didn't hear that. Or, didn't want to hear that.

And, you know, being absent is a very, very unreliable move. And, it tells me something very clear. Now, I'm here.

At 5 o'clock this morning I was in surgery. Doing an emergency. Okay. But, I managed to get here. All right. And, Mr. Peebles is on vacation. I'd like to take a vacation, too. But, I wanted to make sure we were all here. To be here and heard.

And, these five issues don't look like real significant issues to me. But, he's still not here to discuss it and make a decision. Because it's a stall.