

October 23, 2025

PERMANENT DEBARMENT OF LAVON AND NATASHA TIMS, MIND OVER MATTER FOUNDATION, INC., MY BROTHERS AND MY SISTERS KEEPER, INC., AND FREEDOM PRODUCTIONS, INC.

THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Education of the City of Chicago (Board) permanently debar Respondents Lavon Tims, Natasha Tims, Mind Over Matter Foundation, Inc., My Brothers and My Sisters Keeper, Inc., and Freedom Productions, Inc. from doing any business with the Board.

The Board's Chief Procurement Officer mailed and e-mailed a notice of proposed debarment to Respondents on July 27, 2023 initiating debarment proceedings against Respondents based on Section 2(k) of the Board's debarment policy. The OIG investigated Lavon and Natasha Tims and determined that the Tims and their three companies engaged in a bid stringing scheme where they were paid over \$315,900 after submitting over 100 purchase orders to the Board for services they claimed to have performed at Ella Flagg Young Elementary School from 2005 to 2019. Respondents used their companies to circumvent the Board's procurement rules by making sure the yearly aggregate amount of billed services was below the Board's competitive bidding requirements. Illinois Secretary of State records show that the three companies operated by Lavon and Natasha Tims were different versions of the same business. The Board's OIG recommends permanent debarment of Respondents.

Respondents failed to submit a written response to the notice as required by Section 4(d) of the Board's debarment policy. All allegations in the notice are therefore admitted. See Debarment Policy, §4(d). The Chief Operating Officer has reviewed the record (as defined in Section 4.5(10) of the debarment policy) and recommends permanent debarment.

Based on the facts in the record as defined in Section 4.5(10) of the Board's debarment policy, the Chief Operating Officer recommends that (1) all existing contracts between the Board and Respondents be terminated; (2) that Respondents be barred from doing business with CPS or otherwise working on CPS property; (3) that Respondents be barred from participating as a subcontractor, vendor, or supplier under any Board contract; (4) that Respondents be barred from being hired or employed by CPS; and (5) that Respondents be declared ineligible for the award of any new Board business.

The Board adopts and approves the recommendation of the Chief Operating Officer.

LSC REVIEW: LSC approval is not applicable to this report.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATUS: Affirmative Action review is not applicable to this report.

FINANCIAL: None.

GENERAL CONDITIONS: None.

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Charles Mayfield
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Chief Operating Officer

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

Signed by:
Elizabeth Barton Initial
Elizabeth K Barton (EJ)
Acting General Counsel