

A.G. Healey Gets \$380K Settlement with Company that Failed to Hire Minority and Woman Subcontractors

“Attorney General Maura Healey has reached a \$380,000 settlement with a Canton-based building contractor accused of falsely claiming they had hired minority- and women-owned subcontractors as required on a \$15 million dollar state project,” reports Paul Singer and Chris Burrell in WGBH’s *local news*.

“The company, ENE Systems, Inc. – a systems engineering firm that has worked on major building projects across the region – denies any wrongdoing, and said it tried to meet the hiring goals, but it agreed to pay \$300,000, give up another \$81,000 remaining on the contract and conduct an annual review of its own compliance with state requirements for hiring minorities and women. The settlement is the seventh “false claims” case brought by the AG’s office over the past decade against companies accused of failing to meet minority hiring commitments, and is the second largest. Six of these cases have been brought by a new false claims division created by Healey in 2015.”

“Earlier this year, an investigation by WGBH’s New England Center for Investigative Reporting showed that minority-owned businesses – black owned businesses in particular – receive only a tiny fraction of the billions of dollars state agencies spend each year on contractors, and their share of state contracts and discretionary agency spending has declined over the past 20 years.”

Read the article.