

PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION of Chicago

Board of Commissioners Meeting 05.18.21





CHICAGO WORKS

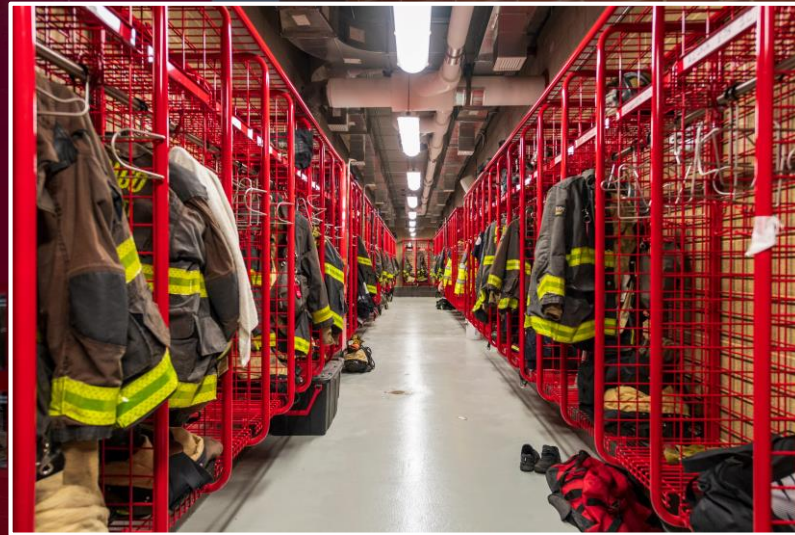
INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES
THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE



MAYOR LORI E. LIGHTFOOT



Largest firehouse ever built in Chicago is open for operations on the Far South Side





The PBC establishes city residency and community area hiring requirements with each of its construction projects. That means 50% of the total hours worked on a project must come from City of Chicago residents. Furthermore, at the outset of a project, the PBC defines the community area, usually the neighborhood and immediate surrounding areas. 7.5% of the total hours worked on a project must be worked by residents of that community area. These efforts ensure the PBC's commitment to economic sustainability is furthered with a workforce as diverse as the communities within Chicago.

For both the Legler Regional Library and Engine Company 115 (EC 115) projects, emphasis was placed on community hiring. EC 115 boasted 15 community hires while Legler employed 20 community residents in a variety of trades.

Legler Regional Library Community Hires



Name: Cordera Tate
Profession: Security
Time in Trade: Four Years

"The library is only a five-to-ten minute walk from my house. I can't wait until they are finished. I'm not the only one who is anxious to see the final product. People passing by keep asking me when are we going to be open. I keep telling them real soon. I have been to the library before, but I will definitely be back after completion. This library will serve the community well."



Name: Reginald Blakney
Profession: Laborer
Time in Trade: Fifteen Years

"I've been a union laborer since 2004 and its good to be a part of fixing a building in my own community. The library is only a five minute drive from my house but I never had a reason to come inside until I got this job. The first time I came in, I was very surprised. It's a clean, nice and beautiful building even during construction. Now that they are completely rehabbing the building, I guess that I will have to use my library card here more often."

Engine Company 115 Community Hires



Name: Eric Dowdy
Profession: Brick Mason
Time in Trade: Twenty-Nine Years

"I live in the Roseland community and very happy that this building is being constructed here. I hope that they build something across the street on the vacant land and the firehouse is the start of putting more needed resources in this community."



Name: Reggie Mosley
Profession: Electrician Apprentice
Time in Trade: Four Years

"I originally thought that this project would upset a few people but now that I've been here for a while, I think that the firehouse will be good for the area. It was definitely needed. A new police station in this community should be next."



Name: Shelton Moore
Profession: Laborer
Time in Trade: Fifteen Years

"I live in the West Pullman community and was happy to hear from my union steward about this position in my own neighborhood. The firehouse is very convenient and needed. I hope this is the start of not just the city but the people in the community upgrading the area."



Name: Jacqueline House
Profession: Brick Mason
Time in Trade: Twenty-One Years

"I was once in a fire and I know that the close proximity of the firehouse helped to save my life. That experience affected me in a great way. My grandmother lives on west 119th street and this firehouse being so close makes me feel better about her safety and well-being."



Contractor Spotlight

Corporate Career Lays Foundation to Successfully Lead Family Construction Firm



Stephanie Hickman

President and Chief Executive Officer of Trice Construction

In less than 10 years, Stephanie Hickman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Trice Construction, transformed the family's small, residential construction company into an award winning, utility infrastructure and self-performing commercial concrete construction firm.

"I was born into the industry," Hickman said. "My father and uncles started the company in 1967 constructing garage concrete slabs."

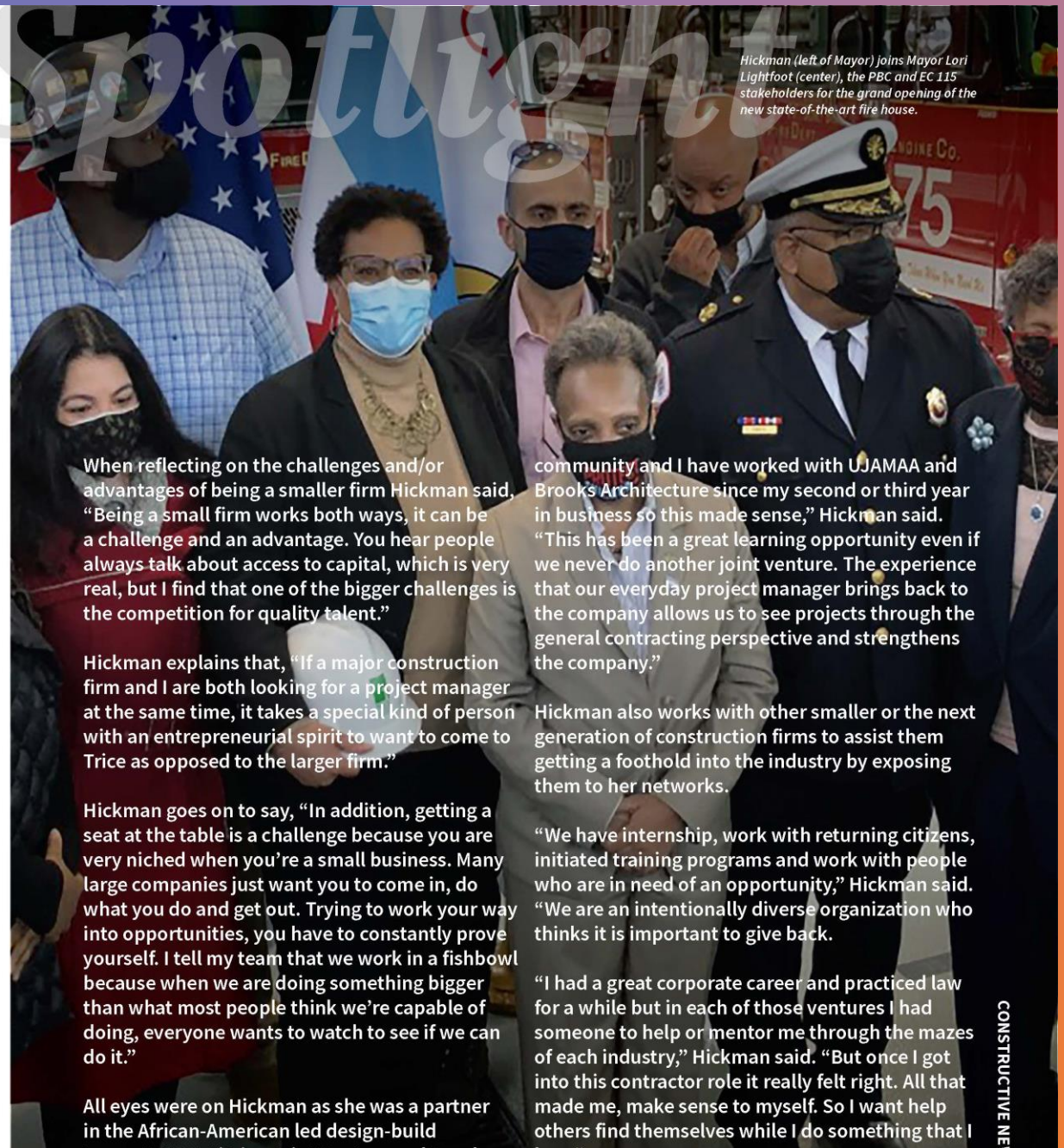
Hickman continues, "A little more than 14 years ago, my family was transitioning out of construction and I saw that the experience and operation skills I acquired in the private industry were a match to help grow and expand the business, so I took a chance. I just couldn't imagine the family company not being there anymore. I told myself that if it works out - great, if not I could always go back to private industry."

This thought was further reinforced when a mentor told her, "Well you will be even stronger if this venture is not successful because you will have operation experience that you can bring back to corporate America."

"Even though a lot of people might have thought that I was crazy to leave a good corporate job, I decided that I would take the leap. The next thing I knew, I gave up my office to be out in the field," Hickman said. "So, after about a year, I saw some of my former colleagues who said that I had a great tan and asked if I had been to the islands. I responded with a laugh. Yes, I have - Stony Island, Blue Island - in alleys, in jeans and work boots installing concrete pads."

That "island" work has paid off, Trice Construction, has grown from four to more than 100 employees with operations in Chicago and St. Louis. The company continues to experience growth year over year and has been able to leverage that expertise into their first joint venture to help construct the largest firehouse ever built in Chicago. When asked how did she turn a family business into an award-winning construction company with corporate clients, Hickman says with a laugh, "I don't sleep!"

She continues, "It was just a matter of rolling my sleeve up, tenacity and surrounding myself with some really good people because I can't be everywhere nor know everything. I have fired myself from some roles in the company because



Hickman (left of Mayor) joins Mayor Lori Lightfoot (center), the PBC and EC 115 stakeholders for the grand opening of the new state-of-the-art fire house.

When reflecting on the challenges and/or advantages of being a smaller firm Hickman said, "Being a small firm works both ways, it can be a challenge and an advantage. You hear people always talk about access to capital, which is very real, but I find that one of the bigger challenges is the competition for quality talent."

Hickman explains that, "If a major construction firm and I are both looking for a project manager at the same time, it takes a special kind of person with an entrepreneurial spirit to want to come to Trice as opposed to the larger firm."

Hickman goes on to say, "In addition, getting a seat at the table is a challenge because you are very niched when you're a small business. Many large companies just want you to come in, do what you do and get out. Trying to work your way into opportunities, you have to constantly prove yourself. I tell my team that we work in a fishbowl because when we are doing something bigger than what most people think we're capable of doing, everyone wants to watch to see if we can do it."

All eyes were on Hickman as she was a partner in the African-American led design-build

community and I have worked with UJAMAA and Brooks Architecture since my second or third year in business so this made sense," Hickman said. "This has been a great learning opportunity even if we never do another joint venture. The experience that our everyday project manager brings back to the company allows us to see projects through the general contracting perspective and strengthens the company."

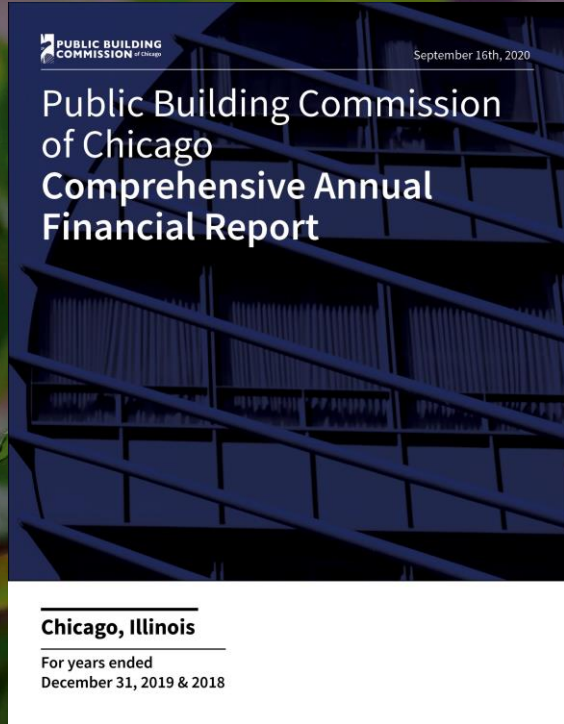
Hickman also works with other smaller or the next generation of construction firms to assist them getting a foothold into the industry by exposing them to her networks.

"We have internship, work with returning citizens, initiated training programs and work with people who are in need of an opportunity," Hickman said. "We are an intentionally diverse organization who thinks it is important to give back."

"I had a great corporate career and practiced law for a while but in each of those ventures I had someone to help or mentor me through the mazes of each industry," Hickman said. "But once I got into this contractor role it really felt right. All that made me, make sense to myself. So I want help others find themselves while I do something that I



PBC's Englewood STEM High School Project receives New Buildings Award



PBC Received Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting



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