



Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program Fraud FAQs:

1. What is fraud?
 - Fraud is a deliberate deception to secure an unfair gain. It can occur in a number of different forms, including monetary and contractual, to gain an illegal advantage. Fraud can be any number of actions that compromise the contracting process or other aspects of the DBE program.
2. What are some types of fraud in the DBE Program?
 - Bid rigging
 - Bribery
 - Kickbacks
 - Misrepresentation of who is doing the work
 - Misrepresentation of who owns the company
3. What are some red flags to be aware of?
 - A business owner lacking background, expertise, or equipment to perform the work
 - DBE not present at the work site
 - Prime contractor that always uses the same DBE
 - Financial or payroll irregularities i.e./ ghost employees, employees working for both the prime and the DBE, joint bank accounts
 - No written contract between the prime contractor and the DBE
4. What are the ways suspected fraud can be reported?
 - Call our hotline at 1-877-480-6617
 - Email us at dbefraud@soundtransit.org
5. Can reports be made anonymously?
 - Yes. You do not have to give your name or any identifying information. However, if we do not have enough information and cannot contact you, we may be unable to proceed with your report.
6. If someone reports fraud, can they be protected from retaliation?
 - Yes! Employees, contractors, and subcontractors who would report this kind of fraud are protected from retaliation. You are protected from retaliation such as, but not limited to, demotion, suspension, firing, and other reprisal actions. Please visit the Office of Inspector General for details: <https://www.oig.dot.gov/investigations/dot-employee-whistleblower-protection>