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Volume 11—No. 3

*Advocating, Informing and Promoting Small & Minority Owned Businesses*



**Media's  
responsibility  
is to  
challenge  
government**

**Inside this issue:**

**Page 3:**  
**Columbus City  
Schools fail to meet  
LEDE purchasing goal**

**Page 3:**  
**Guest Column—Is  
SOS suppressing the  
Black vote?**

**Page 4:**  
**EmployOhio**

**Page 5:**  
**Bid Opportunities**

**Page 8:**  
**Ohio Diversity  
Network**

**Page 10:**  
**Questions to ask  
those seeking elect-  
ed office**

## Dr. Beverly Stallings-Johnson hired as Columbus' Chief Diversity Officer

Mayor Andrew J. Ginther recently announced that Dr. Beverly Stallings-Johnson will serve as Chief Diversity Officer for the City of Columbus. Stallings-Johnson currently serves as an Equal Employment Opportunity Officer with Xerox and is in charge of developing, supporting, executing global diversity and inclusion compliance strategy and deliverables. She began on February 1, 2020. Damita Brown, who has served as interim director since 2018, will remain as deputy director of the department.

"I want to thank Damita for her service as interim director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and look forward to her continued expertise," said Mayor Ginther. "Making sure that city employees and contractors reflect the rich diversity of our city remains a top priority for me. Beverly joins our team with a wealth of experience, particularly in human resources and global diversity and inclusion that will take us to the next level in continuing to define and achieve our goals for the City of Columbus."



Dr. Beverly Stallings-Johnson



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OhioMBE welcomes letters to the editor from readers. Typed letters of 200 words or less are preferred; all might be edited. Each letter must include name, home address and daytime phone number. Some letter may appear on our website.

The 912 Group is an Ohio certified Minority Owned and EDGE business. The 912 Group is a certified FBE with the City of Columbus.

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## White House Policy Advisor for Entrepreneurship & Innovation Hosts Columbus Opportunity and Entrepreneurship Summit

*Summit highlights central Ohio Opportunity Zones and educates entrepreneurs about assistance for growth and expansion within them*

**COLUMBUS** – White House Policy Advisor for Entrepreneurship & Innovation Ashley D. Bell, in partnership with the [U.S. Small Business Administration](https://www.sba.gov/), hosted an **Opportunity and Entrepreneurship Summit** on Wednesday, January 22, in Columbus. The summit focused on Opportunity Zones' economic potential in central Ohio, with an emphasis on startups and business expansion. More than 100 attendees heard from federal representatives including the SBA, Housing and Urban Development, Department of Justice and Department of Agriculture regarding their role in the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council. The summit also featured panels covering small business assistance with financing and contracting efforts resulting from Opportunity Zone investment.

"Opportunity Zones are a tool for communities to attract investment dollars to urban and rural neighborhoods for a variety of project types," said White House Policy Advisor for Entrepreneurship & Innovation Ashley D. Bell. "By putting an emphasis on these areas, we are connecting potential investors with regions that may have otherwise been overlooked, generating a more inclusive economic future."

In 2017, President Trump signed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which established Opportunity Zones to incentivize long-term investments in America's economically distressed communities. Opportunity Zones offer investors capital gains tax relief and are designed help disadvantaged areas through increased economic activity. Qualified Opportunity Zones retain their designation for 10 years and in total are anticipated to spur \$100 billion in private capital investment.

Ohio has 320 designated Opportunity Zones, including 317 low-income communities, plus 3 non-low-income contiguous tracts. In 2019, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's operating budget includ-



Ashley Bell,  
White House Policy Advisor for  
Entrepreneurship and Innovation

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*Diversity from page 1*

Stallings-Johnson received her bachelor of arts in marketing and communications from the University of Richmond, a masters in management from Loyola Marymount, and a Ph.D. in organizational effectiveness. She has been with Xerox since 2004 and has served in multiple roles including Transformation Director, Senior Leader in Diversity and Inclusion, and Corporate HR Leader in Inclusion and Intersectionality.

"Diversity in Columbus is the thread that ties us all together, a basic characteristic of human society, but most importantly an essential condition for the dynamic, progressive city as we see today. I'm excited to be a part of the future – equity, inclusion and growth."

# publisher's note

## LEDE Participation Goals don't reflect Columbus City Schools Pride

By Ronda Watson Barber  
Publisher

I am a proud Columbus City School graduate. Mrs. Kruckenberg is that special teacher I had in the fourth and fifth grades. I will always remember her. She taught me how to read, write and figure. She ran a stern stiff no-nonsense classroom. She expected us to learn. Her former students include nurses, lawyers, engineers, business owners, captains of industry and public servants. I always say because of Mrs. Kruckenberg's influence and my Columbus City School education, I can compete with anyone on the planet.

I am Columbus City School proud. I dedicate a scholarship in my father's honor to Columbus City School graduates for post-secondary education or training.

Columbus City Schools students are presently interning in my office. The internship will be turning into employment.

I am a supporter of the students and the many positive things that are going on in the district.

As the state's largest public school district, I question the district's mission and motives, particularly where disadvantaged businesses are concerned. Is the district incorporating disadvantaged businesses in its purchasing scheme? The district has a race-neutral certification program. Businesses that participate in the Local Economically Disadvantaged Enterprises (LEDE) program have a net worth less than \$750,000 not counting their primary residence and investment in the company. The business must be located in Franklin County or 50 percent of the employees must reside in the district. The business has to be in operation for at least one year. The district has an equity policy as it pertains LEDE companies.

The policy reads: *The Board affirms its commitment to its "Equity Policy." The School District seeks to include LEDEs in all aspects of its contracting for construction, professional and non-professional services and procurement of goods and supplies activities by adopting this statement (this "LEDE Statement"). Specifically, this LEDE Statement seeks to achieve the goal of awarding to LEDEs School District contracts and procurements which represent at least twenty percent (20%) of all dollars spent on an annual basis by the School District for contracting and procurement purposes (the "LEDE Participa-*

*See Publisher on page 10*

# guest column

## Columbus Branch of the NAACP strongly believes that the Secretary of State is suppressing the Black vote

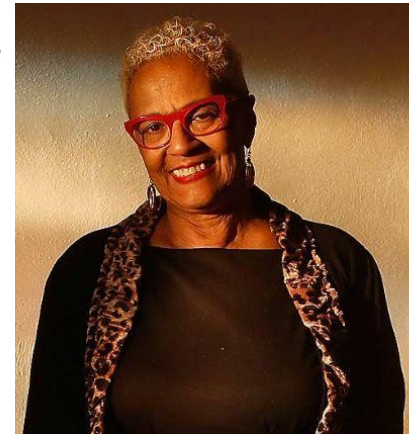
In 2019, the Columbus Branch of the NAACP came before the Franklin County Board of Elections to request the Board release a communication plan with designated funds for voter registration and education prior to the March 2020 primary election. The Franklin County Board of Elections has regularly approved spending these funds for over a decade to assist the voters of Franklin County in knowing what ID they need to vote, the

hours of the Early Voting Center, and the contact information of the Board if they have any questions. The two Democratic members of the Board supported this request, while the two Republicans did not. The request was denied

The NAACP requested that the Ohio Secretary of State, Frank LaRose, break the tie that existed between the Republicans and Democrats. Secretary LaRose did not comply with our request and instead issued a weak statement that hid behind the Republican Board members and their disinterest in our voting rights. Secretary LaRose then sent the NAACP a plan for the general election in November 2020 and requested our input. We could not possibly approve any plan until the Secretary provides details of how it will not disenfranchise our community.

The Columbus Branch of the NAACP strongly believes that the Secretary of State is suppressing the vote, by refusing to intervene on behalf of the voters of Franklin County. His rejection will hurt communities of color, particularly African Americans who were twice as likely to cast provisional votes, areas with high poverty rates which were almost four times as likely to cast provisional votes, and areas with young voters, which were nearly five times as likely to cast provisional votes. The voters of our community should not be penalized for the indifference shown by Republicans about voting rights – this is something we have come to expect at the national level, but not from those who claim to be our friends and neighbors.

*See Guest on page 4*



Nana Watson  
Columbus NAACP President





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Guest from page 3

They should be ashamed of their actions and work to regain the trust of the voters by taking politics out of voting.

The NAACP is a non-partisan organization. We have a long history of providing voters with the information they need in order to cast their ballot – including where to go, what you need, when can you vote, who the candidates are, and how you can cast your vote. We stand against any attempt by any party to suppress our right to vote – and will stand against any effort made to disenfranchise our community by withholding information we deserve to have. We call upon Secretary LaRose, Republican BOE members Brad Sinnott and Doug Preisse to come back to the table and work on a plan that communicates all necessary voter information through the mediums that reach each and every resident of Franklin County. It is their duty, and we will hold them to it.

Nana Watson, President  
Columbus Branch NAACP

On February 4, 2020, the Board of Education (“BOE”) of the Columbus City School District (“District”) approved resolutions to offer for lease the real property located at 474 N. Monroe Avenue, Columbus, Ohio (the “Property”) for a lease term of 5 years at the appraised fair market rent of \$46,366.00 per year; provided, the lease shall include a provision permitting the BOE to terminate the lease if the BOE determines that the Property is needed for school purposes.

Pursuant to Section 3313.411 of the Ohio Revised Code, the BOE hereby offers the Property for lease to the governing authorities of community schools, the boards of trustees of any college-preparatory boarding schools, and the governing bodies of any STEM schools, that are located within the territory of the District. Notices of intention to lease the Property will be accepted for a period of 60 days beginning 8:00 A.M. on February 17, 2020 and ending 5:00 P.M. on April 16, 2020. All notices shall be delivered to the Office of Real Estate, Columbus City Schools, 889 East 17 th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

For additional information, to obtain a copy of the form lease, or to schedule tours call the Real Estate & Shared Facilities Office at (614) 365-5164. The Property is being leased on an “as-is” basis, and the BOE makes no representation or warranty concerning the Property. A tenant must rely solely upon its own examination of the Property to determine the Property’s physical condition, fitness for the tenant’s intended uses, and compliance with applicable building codes or other governmental regulations. The BOE reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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# bid opportunities

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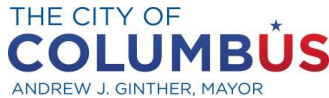


Columbus City Schools issues solicitations on a regular basis for goods & services related to food, construction, technology, curriculum, & transportation. Interested vendors should periodically check our website at <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/rfp>



## LEGAL NOTICE

OPERATION: FIX IT – RESTROOM UPGRADES – INNIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, COLUMBUS CITY PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL, BRIGGS HIGH SCHOOL, AND WEST HIGH SCHOOL



ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

## DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Development has contracting opportunities in the below areas. Please reach out for more information and bidding requirements.

- Graffiti Removal and Arborist Services. Contact Eric Voorhees (614-645-7934 or [eavorhees@columbus.gov](mailto:eavorhees@columbus.gov)).
- Grass Cutting and Solid Waste Removal. Contact Mike Schwab (614-645-7122 or [mfschwab@columbus.gov](mailto:mfschwab@columbus.gov)).
- Demolition and Asbestos Abatement. Contact Mike Farrenkopf (614- 679-5873 or [mlfarrenkopf@columbus.gov](mailto:mlfarrenkopf@columbus.gov)) or Seth Brehm (614-645-5659 or [swhbrehm@columbus.gov](mailto:swhbrehm@columbus.gov)).
- Property Maintenance and Miscellaneous Services in November 2019. Contact Audrea Hickman (614-645-8907 or [ahickman@columbus.gov](mailto:ahickman@columbus.gov)).
- Construction trades including: General Construction, Home Improvement, Electrical, HVAC, and Plumbing. Contact Tim Tilton (614- 724-3009 or [twilton@columbus.gov](mailto:twilton@columbus.gov)).
- Lead abatement. Contact Erica Hudson (614- 645-6739 or [ejhudson@columbus.gov](mailto:ejhudson@columbus.gov)).

To register for notifications on upcoming bid opportunities, please visit <http://vendors.columbus.gov/sites/public>.

Sealed bids for the above-referenced project will be received by the BOARD OF EDUCATION, City School District of Columbus, Ohio, Office of Capital Improvements, 889 E. 17th Ave, Columbus OH 43211, until Friday, February 28, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. More information can be found on the District's web site at <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/rfp>. The plans and specifications are on file with Franklin Imaging.



## COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

COMMUNITY. COMMITMENT. COLLABORATION.

Legal Notice: IFB 2020-002  
Moving Services Rosewind,  
Thornwood Commons & Country Ridge

The Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking Invitation for Bid (IFB) for the procurement of Moving Services Rosewind, Thornwood Commons & Country Ridge. The response deadline is Thursday February 27, 2020 at 3:00pm. A pre-proposal conference is scheduled for 11:00am on Wednesday February 19, 2020 at 880 E 11 th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43211. Specifications may be obtained by visiting our website, [www.cmhanet.com](http://www.cmhanet.com) or by contacting the Purchasing Department of the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority at 880 E. 11th Ave, Columbus, Ohio 43211 or by calling 614-421-4434, 8:00 AM–4:00 PM, Monday – Friday.

# #bidnotices



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# bid opportunities

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## INVITATION FOR BIDS

Sealed bid proposals will be received by the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority at 100 West Cedar Street, Akron, Ohio 44307 until **2:00 p.m.** local time on **FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020** at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:



### **SITE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK at PIN-ewood GARDENS 8788 RAY COURT, TWINSBURG, OHIO 44087**

Specifications can be purchased at SE Blueprint, Inc. located at 520 South Main Street, Suite 2411, Akron, Ohio 44311 (330) 376-1689. Please email ([akron@seblueprint.com](mailto:akron@seblueprint.com)) or call with quantity requests and notice will be provided when documents are available for pick-up.

An email link for the above mentioned specifications is available at the Subcontractors Association NEO, 637 Vernon Odom Blvd., Akron, Ohio; Akron Urban League, Minority Business Assistance Center, 440 Vernon Odom Blvd., Akron, Ohio; the Builders Exchange of Canton, 5080 Aultman Rd., North Canton, Ohio; Builders Exchange of Cleveland, 9555 Rockside Road, Suite 300, Cleveland, Ohio; and the Ohio Construction News, 7261 Engle Road, Suite 304, Cleveland, Ohio. A list of plan holders can be obtained from SE Blueprint's website @ [www.seblueprint.com](http://www.seblueprint.com)

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held by the Housing Authority at the AMHA Administration Building, 100 West Cedar Street, Akron, Ohio 44307, on **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020 at 2:00 P.M.**

See full bid notice at [ohiombe.com/archives/14099](http://ohiombe.com/archives/14099)



## **CITY OF COLUMBUS IS SEEKING RESIDENTIAL ROOFING CONTRACTORS**

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"The cost of liberty is less  
than the price of repres-  
sion." —W.E.B. Du Bois

# Ohio Diversity Network

Get a weekly email from [OhioDiversityNetwork.com](http://OhioDiversityNetwork.com)  
notifying you of upcoming events. Sign up online!

Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 10:00am  
[ODOT-Contractor DBE Roundtable Discussion \(Lebanon\)](#)  
Lebanon

Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 10:00am [ODOT- Contractor DBE Roundtable Discussion \(Columbus\)](#)  
Columbus

Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 10:00am  
[ODOT- 2020 DBE Certification Workshop-Cleveland](#)  
Garfield Heights, OH 44125

Friday, February 21, 2020 at 9:00am  
[Franklin County-Certification Workshops-Get on Track to Become Certified](#)  
Columbus

Monday, February 24, 2020 at 10:00am  
[ODOT-Contractor DBE Roundtable Discussion \(New Philadelphia\)](#) - New Philadelphia

Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 10:00am  
[ODOT-Contractor DBE Roundtable Discussion \(Jacksontown\)](#) - Jacksontown



## CERTIFICATION SATURDAY

at the City of Columbus Planroom

**2-22**

**10:30 am to noon**

[OHBD.org.eventbrite.com](http://OHBD.org.eventbrite.com)

Get certification and registration information from

- City of Columbus
- Franklin County
- Columbus City Schools
- State of Ohio



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OFFICE OF DIVERSITY  
AND INCLUSION





## OhioMBE Awards Business Profile— RRight Now Communications



Regina Carswell Russo

*RRight Now Communications was nominated as a Top MBE and Top FBE at the 2019 OhioMBE Awards*

RRight Now Communications, LLC was founded by veteran broadcast journalist and seasoned communications professional Regina Carswell Russo.

Regina began her professional communications career in radio in Detroit and Grand Rapids, Michigan. She later switched to television news working in Lansing, Michigan before

moving to Cincinnati, Ohio where she spent 15 years as anchor/reporter/host for the FOX affiliate.

Feeling a desire to stretch her talents in storytelling she became the Director of Marketing and Communications at the Cincinnati Art Museum. In her first two years the museum received remarkable local, regional and national media attention which translated to record attendance numbers. She became the Chief of Communications at the Contemporary Arts Center and elevated the brand awareness of the internationally recognized non-collecting museum. Her work there was recognized by the Cincinnati Business Courier, awarding Carswell Russo with a C-Suite Award for Chief Marketing Officer.

Regina is also a published writer, serving on the Editorial Board of Contributors for the Cincinnati Enquirer and Contributor to Polly Magazine, UPTOWN Magazine and Movers & Makers Magazine. In addition she is a popular host, emcee, and inspirational speaker for non-profit fundraisers and Fortune 500 companies to include Procter and Gamble. Her popular social media channels keep her network of followers up to date on the latest news in arts and culture.

Follow Regina on Twitter [@rrightnowcomm](https://twitter.com/rrightnowcomm) | Connect on [LinkedIn](#)

## SBA Seeks Comments on Proposed Rule Allowing Veteran-Owned Small Businesses Access to Surplus Federal Personal Property

Firms located in Puerto Rico and Disaster Areas also eligible

The U.S. Small Business Administration is seeking comments on a proposed rule that would allow veteran-owned small businesses, including companies located in Puerto Rico and disaster areas, access to property no longer needed by the federal government.

The Federal Surplus Personal Property Donation Program, managed by the U.S. General Services Administration, enables nonfederal organizations to obtain excess property the government no longer uses. Surplus property would include computers, office equipment, tools, vehicles, heavy construction equipment, and any property except land or other real property.

The SBA, in coordination with the GSA, is proposing certain procedures for determining which firms may participate in the GSA surplus personal property program, and under what conditions.

The proposed rule is in accordance with the Recovery Improvements for Small Entities After Disaster Act of 2015 (RISE Act, Section 2105), the Veterans Small Business Enhancement Act of 2018, and the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019.

Comments must be submitted on or before March 23, 2020, to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), identified by Regulation Identifier Number RIN 3245-AH18. You may also mail comments to Brenda Fernandez, Office of Policy, Planning and Liaison, 409 Third Street, SW, 8th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20416.

The SBA will post all comments on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). If you wish to submit confidential business information, mail it to Brenda Fernandez at the above address, or send an email to [brenda.fernandez@sba.gov](mailto:brenda.fernandez@sba.gov).

# Support Black Businesses in 2020

# #bidnotices

## Questions to ask those seeking elected office

1. What have you done for Black-owned & minority businesses during your career?
2. What do you promise to do for Black-owned & minority businesses if elected?
3. What Black-owned & minority business do you regularly purchase products or services from?
4. Why should Black-owned & minority business owners vote for you?
5. How important is Black-owned & minority business development to the overall Ohio economy?
6. Are minority business set-asides and goals in city/county/state government still important and why?
7. What can the city/county/state do to improve its purchasing with minority businesses?
8. What should minority owned businesses do to get city/county/state contracts?
9. Is there anything else, aside from contracting that the city/county/state can do to assist MBE's?
10. Who are the major contributors to your campaign?

*Publisher from page 3*

**tion Goal").** The School District is committed to ensuring that all citizens and/or lawfully admitted permanent residents in the School District community who are qualified contractors, subcontractors, professionals, suppliers, and other service providers have a fair and equitable opportunity to participate in the contracting and procurement activities of the School District.

The 2018-2019 LEDE purchasing numbers have been reported. Again the District failed to meet the required LEDE Participation Goal. Columbus City Schools spent \$130,694,419.32 Certified LEDEs received 15 percent of contracts.

- 50 African American businesses were awarded \$10,308,075.82 in contracts.
- 94 LEDE businesses were utilized.

### 2017-2018

- Overall District spend \$102,255,581.02
- 56 African American businesses were awarded \$12,942,170.32
- 129 LEDE businesses were utilized
- Certified LEDEs received 19.5% of contracts

### 2016-2017

- Overall District spend \$88,203,222.01 (does not include FMP spend)
- 49 African American businesses were awarded \$7,827,028
- 113 LEDE businesses were utilized
- Certified LEDEs received 13.8% of contracts

### 2015-2016

- Overall District spend \$127,983,937.70 (does not include FMP spend)
- 50 African American businesses were awarded \$7,012,238
- 108 LEDE businesses were utilized
- Certified LEDEs received 10.382% contracts

### 2014-2015

- Overall District spend \$60,428,398.91 (does not include FMP spend)
- 29 African American businesses were awarded \$4,380,760
- 59 LEDE businesses were utilized
- Certified LEDEs received 8.945% of contracts

### 2013-2014

# Looking for bid notices?

# WE GOT BIDS!



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[OhioMBE.com/bid-opportunities](http://OhioMBE.com/bid-opportunities)



*"Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly."*

—Langston Hughes

*See Publisher on page 11*

- Overall District spend \$84,787,361.86 (does not include FMP spend)
- 35 African American businesses were awarded \$4,201,136
- 67 LEDE businesses were utilized
- Certified LEDEs received 6.74% of contracts

### 2012-2013

- Overall District spend \$131,601,449.73
  - FMP Spend \$48,777,550.11
  - FMP LEDE Spend \$13,830,144.87
- 27 African American businesses were awarded \$4,078,898
- 67 LEDE businesses were utilized
- Certified LEDEs received 6.74% of contracts on controllable spend
- Certified LEDEs received 14.% with FMP spend included

### 2010-2011

- Overall District spend \$70,308,877
- 19 African American businesses were awarded \$2,620,800
- 77 LEDE businesses were utilized
- Certified LEDEs received 6.2% of contracts

I continue to question the commitment of the Columbus City School district to meet the board mandated 20 percent purchasing goal. Are those that are charged with procuring good and services doing their best to include Black businesses? Are purchasing policies enacted to prevent Black-owned businesses from becoming a vendor with the district? Columbus City Schools is the only public entity in Central Ohio to require vendors to have general liability insurance to register as a vendor. The district will not forward bid notices to vendors who don't have a current W-9 and general liability insurance on file. Are LEDE businesses at the forefront of thought when purchasing decisions are made? Why is legislation forwarded to the elected board without LEDE participation? Why does the elected board vote for legislation that does not include LEDE participation?

It appears to be a utilization issue, not a certification problem. The professional outreach coordinator, Terri Wise, can certify a ton of LEDE businesses and make them aware of

contracting opportunities. She can advocate for LEDE and Black businesses in-district meetings. She doesn't have the authority to issue purchase orders or enter into contracts. She simply makes the community aware of buying opportunities within Columbus City Schools.

Why are the folks that issue purchase orders and contracts not including Black people in the district's scheme of business? The district certainly has qualified disadvantaged businesses to provide goods and services. Many are Columbus City School graduates. The list of LEDE vendors is posted online. The purchasing department is aware of the list. The elected school board is aware of the list. Administrators are aware of the list. And Black folks still aren't getting contracts as mandated by board policy. How committed is Columbus City Schools to meeting the LEDE Participation goal?

Why can't the district meet the LEDE Participation goal? The blame falls squarely on the shoulders of those who have power. The blame falls on the shoulders of those who are in charge of the public tax dollars. The blame falls on the shoulders of the elected school board. The blame falls on the shoulders of administrators and departments who buy goods and services.

Administrators recently received raises despite the fact the buildings and school transportation are unsafe for our children. There have been reports of yellow water, mold, rodents, leaky roofs and fires recently in Columbus City Schools. The district received unacceptable grades on the state report card. The district has failed to again meet the 20 percent LEDE Participation Goal. The elected school board will be asking the community to support another tax levy. Presently, Columbus homeowners have accessed an 18% permanent property tax.

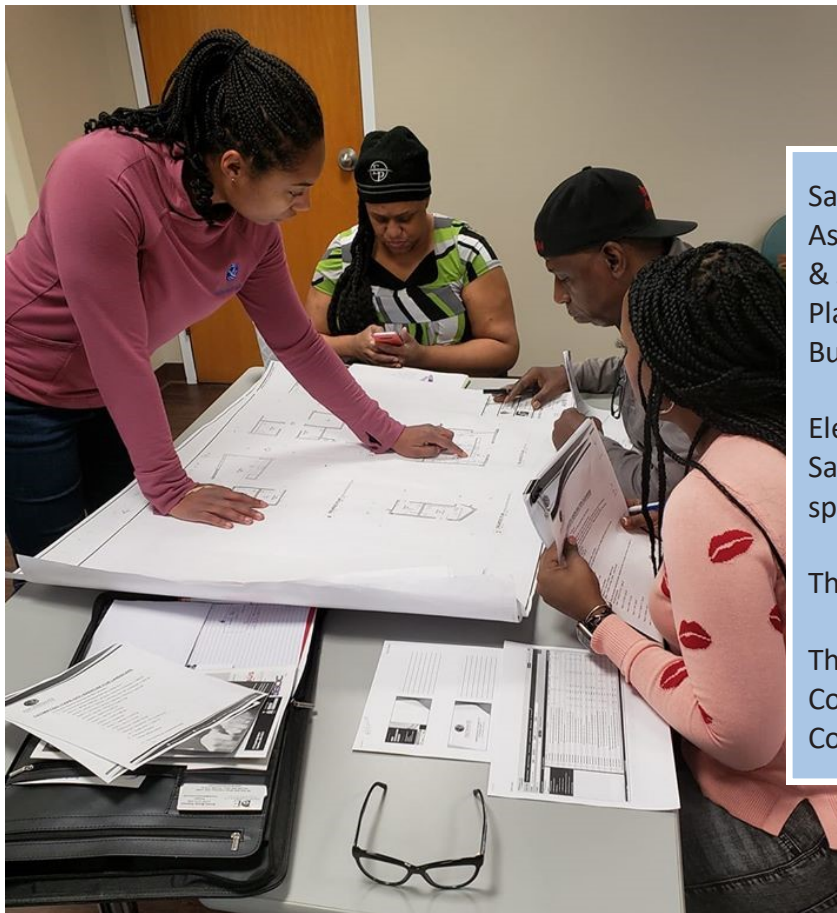
I will always be Columbus City Schools Proud. But what is the expectation of the Board from taxpayers to continue to financially support a district when so many of the district's constituents are dismissed and let down?

Just my thoughts...  
Ronda Watson Barber



*If we accept and acquiesce in the face of discrimination, we accept the responsibility ourselves and allow those responsible to salve their conscience by believing that they have our acceptance and concurrence. We should, therefore, protest openly everything... that smacks of discrimination or slander.* —Mary McLeod Bethune





Saturday morning learning with Ascensions Construction Solutions & Jeanna Hondel — at City of Columbus Planroom, operated by the Ohio Business Development Center.

Eleven business owners have met every Saturday since Feb. 1 to hone their plan/spec reading and estimating skills.

The next class will be held in April 2020.

Thanks to the Franklin County Commissioners for sponsoring the OBDC Construction Academy.