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Advocating, Informing and Promoting Small & Minority Owned Businesses since 2009

## Columbus NAACP COVID-19 Presidential Message

Nana Watson, President of the Columbus Ohio Branch #3177 NAACP formally announces its role as a watchdog and facilitator addressing the health and financial disparities brought to light during this tragic Covid-19 Pandemic.

President Watson will join in the fact-gathering, monitoring, and advocacy responsibilities to all public or private sector participants responsible for delivering the financial and other critical resources fairly to those who need it the most. "The recent signing of \$484 Billion Legislation is a second chance to get the resources into the hands of those who need it and should have been awarded funding in the initial round," Watson stated.

This historic Pandemic is having a disproportionate negative impact on the physical and mental health of Central Ohio's African American community. The fallout of COVID-19 has also proven to be financially crippling to African Americans and African American owned small businesses.

Recent concerns expressed to the Columbus NAACP, including news reports, created this need for urgent action. To this end, President Watson has appointed Annie J. Ross-Womack as the Chair of the NAACP's Covid-19 response efforts. Mr. Lawrence Auls, an experienced small businessperson, has been added as the Interim Chair of the Economic Development Committee.



Annie J. Ross-Womack



Lawrence Auls

Media's responsibility is to challenge government

### Inside this issue:

Page 2:  
Black Accountant helping businesses with PPP bookkeeping

Page 3:  
Business Advocate—Kenneth Wilson

Page 3:  
Congresswoman Beatty pens letter to Gov. Dewine about Corona Virus

Page 4:  
EmployOhio

Page 6:  
Bid Opportunities





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OhioMBE welcomes letters to the editor from readers. Typed letters of 350 words or less are preferred. Each letter must include name, home address and daytime phone number. Some letters may appear on our website.

# REOPENING OHIO UPDATE

FACTS AS OF APRIL 27TH

## MAY 1ST

•HEALTHCARE THAT DOESN'T REQUIRE AN OVERNIGHT STAY

## MAY 4TH

•MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION, AND CONSTRUCTION

•GENERAL OFFICE ENVIRONMENTS CAN REOPEN IN OHIO. HOWEVER, WE STILL WANT PEOPLE TO WORK FROM HOME AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

## MAY 12TH

•CONSUMER, RETAIL, AND SERVICES TO REOPEN WITH MANDATORY ORDER OF 6FT BETWEEN ALL PEOPLE (EMPLOYEES AND CONSUMERS)

## OTHER INDUSTRIES

THE #STAYHOMEOHIO ORDER WILL STILL BE IN PLACE FOR GATHERINGS, THE ORDER OF NO MORE THAN 10 PEOPLE WILL REMAIN.

### BLACK ACCOUNTANT HELPING ENTREPRENEURS WHO RECEIVED PPP FUNDING WITH THEIR BOOKKEEPING



(BlackNews.com) -- Meet Christanne Wright, Founder and CEO of Your Wright Resource LLC, who is helping small business owners who were approved for Payroll Protection Program (PPP), but have not thought much about what is required to document their use of the funds.

Wright comments, "Many entrepreneurs don't understand the rules necessary to qualify for forgiveness of these loans. It isn't enough to just use the funds for payroll and wait until next year to file the business tax return."

See Accountant on page 6



## Congresswoman Beatty Outlines Constituents' Coronavirus Concerns

*Sends letter to Gov. DeWine ahead of the formal creation of the Minority Health Strike Force*

U.S. Congresswoman Joyce Beatty (OH-03) sent a letter to Ohio Governor Mike DeWine highlighting ongoing issues of concern for many constituents in Ohio's Third Congressional District.

"I know that you are considering many Ohioans to transition back to work on May 1, but I have reservations about the time frame of this move until several health guardrails are instituted," Beatty wrote. Specifically, she noted the need for more testing and personal protective equipment (PPE), expansion of healthcare services and testing outside of traditional hospital settings, reducing racial health disparities, and commutation of sentences for non-violent offenders.

Beatty's letter comes in advance of DeWine appointing members to his Minority Health Strike Force. As she mentions, "Here in Ohio, Black Americans account for 12 percent of the state's population but 23.3 percent of Ohio's COVID-19 cases" and "persons of color make up an overwhelming majority of Ohio's prison populations, which has contributed to this virus's disproportionate impact on the minority community as a whole."

At the federal level, Beatty cosponsored a similar proposal on commutation, the *COVID-19 Correctional Facility Emergency Response Act of 2020, H.R. 6414*. If enacted into law, the bill would allocate funds for states and localities to test prison populations and facilitate the release of non-violent offenders. This measure seeks to address the growing number of virus outbreaks occurring in federal and state penitentiaries across the country like Marion Correctional Institution in Marion County, Ohio.

From the very beginning of this public health crisis, Beatty has worked hard to expand access to PPE and COVID-19 testing, as well as services for communities of color. In fact, [her support helped earn Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) full approval for Battelle Memorial Institute's revolutionary process to sanitize and reuse up to 80,000 N-95 protective masks](#), and [Beatty was among the first to demand that congressional leadership include federal funding for testing at community health centers and to increase the sup-](#)

*See Beatty on page 4*

# business advocate

## Kenneth N. Wilson Franklin County Administrator

As County Administrator, Wilson leads more than 1,400 employees and oversees the County's annual \$1.8 billion budgeting process for 35 agencies to ensure Franklin County remains one of the finest, best-governed counties in the nation. He was hired in 2005 as Director for the County's Office of Management and Budget. In 2010, he was elevated to the role of Deputy County Administrator for Resource Management, and again to County Administrator in January 2015.



Kenneth N. Wilson

Franklin County has been in the forefront of provides services during the corona virus pandemic.

"Franklin County believes in the advancement of entrepreneur-centric public policy and support of financial incentives that promote the ability of micro-enterprises to grow and prosper, especially Black-owned businesses which have not always been prioritized as essential to economic growth in Central Ohio, but we know different because these businesses are key to economic mobility in the county and reduce the racial and gender wealth gap".

Information on the various programs sponsored by Franklin County can be found online at <https://commissioners.franklincountyohio.gov/>

Wilson holds a Masters in Public Administration from Ohio University and a B.A. from James Madison College at Michigan State University, where he majored in Public Affairs, Metropolitan Studies and Business.

He served as Chairperson of the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio and president of the County Administrators Association of Ohio. He is the current Vice Chairperson of National Association of Counties Healthy Counties Initiative Advisory Board and National Association of County Administrators. Wilson is an active member of several additional boards.



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- 3 **FACE** Don't touch it
- 4 **FEET** Stay more than 6ft apart
- 5 **FEEL** sick? Stay home

*Advocate from page 3*

He is a resident of Grove City, Ohio, married to wife DeShawna and is the proud father of two daughters ages 17 and 26.

Mr. Wilson can be reached at:  
Kenneth N. Wilson, MPA, CTA  
County Administrator  
Franklin County Board of Commissioners  
373 South High Street, 26<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6314  
Tel: 614-525-4132 Fax: 614-525-5999  
Email: [knwilson@franklincountyohio.gov](mailto:knwilson@franklincountyohio.gov)

**#bidnotices**

*Beatty from page 3*

[ply of PPE for hospital and healthcare workers](#). As the Chair of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion, Beatty took a lead role in helping to draft the proposal allocating tens of billions of dollars from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) for community development financial institutions and other non-traditional lenders like non-federally-insured credit unions that have historically served communities of color as well as rural and urban areas. Moreover, she pressed the Trump Administration repeatedly to [‘ban the box,’](#) [improve clarity around the PPP](#), and [better coordinate the distribution of federal assistance available to minority-owned small businesses](#).

To read Beatty’s full letter to DeWine, [please click here](#).

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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>



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 [aehickman@columbus.gov](mailto:aehickman@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>.



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Kokosing Industrial, Inc. is preparing bids for the Westerly Tunnel Dewatering Pump Station project in Cleveland, Ohio which bids May 28, 2020. We are seeking quotes for any portion of the project listed that you are qualified to perform or provide supplies for which includes the following: **Photographic Documentation, Maintenance of Traffic, Demolition, Concrete Reinforcing, Cast In Place Concrete, Grouting, Masonry, Misc. Metals, Insulation, Caulking, Protective Coatings, Fire Protection, Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical, Clearing and Grubbing, Earthwork, Concrete Paving, Pavement Markings, Fencing, Landscaping, Instrumentation and Controls.** Bidding documents can be examined online by emailing Sonja Nichols at [snichols@kokosing.biz](mailto:snichols@kokosing.biz) for the link. Please have your quote to Steve Ehret by 12:00 PM May 27, 2020: e-mail [snichols@kokosing.biz](mailto:snichols@kokosing.biz) or Fax 614-212-5711.

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## COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

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Legal Notice: RFP 2020-Permanent Financing (Post Oak Station)

Request for Proposal (RFP) for the procurement of Permanent Financing

(Post Oak Station). The response deadline is Monday May 11, 2020 at 11:00 AM. 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 421-4434, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Monday - Friday.

# #bidnotices



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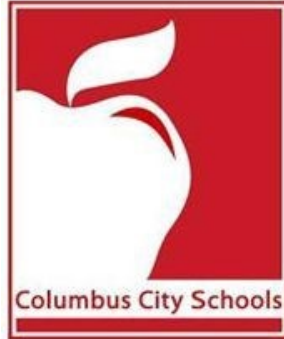
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OPERATION: FIX IT – SECURITY VESTIBULE UPGRADES –FAIRWOOD ALT. K-6, LINDEN STEM ACADEMY PREK-6, FOREST PARK ES, DEVONSHIRE ES, VALLEY FORGE ES AND VALLEYVIEW ES REBID

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 until Friday, May 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.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.



Sealed bid proposals will be received by the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority at 100 West Cedar Street, Ak-

ron, Ohio 44307 until **2:00 p.m.** local time on **WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020** at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

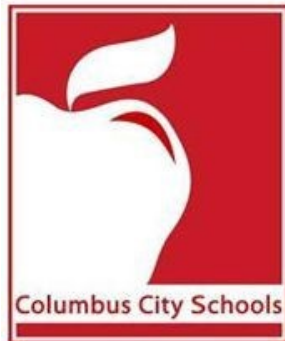
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Specifications can be purchased at SE Blueprint, Inc. located at 520 South Main Street, Suite 2411, Akron, Ohio 44311 (330) 376-1689. Please email ([akron@seblueprint.com](mailto:akron@seblueprint.com)) or call with quantity requests and notice will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

## LEGAL NOTICE

OPERATION: FIX IT – INDEFINITE QUANTITY CONTRACT PHASE B– ASPHALT PAVING

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 Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 10:00 a.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.



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, MAY 6, 2020 at 2:00 P.M.**

*Accountant from page 2*

With over 25 years' experience in taxation and wealth management, Wright says that as an entrepreneur herself, she has built her business to ensure that her clients are not blind-sided with the many issues that can arise financially.

She adds, "10 years ago, I decided to use this knowledge to go out on my own and support my fellow entrepreneurs so they can focus on their business while we handle the back office financial needs."

Based in Central Ohio, her team has done the research and are national experts in bookkeeping, payroll and recordkeeping in order to stay in compliance with the IRS and SBA.

For more details and/or to schedule a free consultation, visit [YourWrightResource.com](http://YourWrightResource.com) or contact her firm at (888) 788-8610



# Verifications Needed for Benefits

## SNAP - Food Assistance

- Social Security Number or Proof One Has Been Applied For
- Permanent Resident Card or other INS documentation if not a U.S. Citizen
- Verification of Earned and Unearned Income
- Proof of Identity
- Verification of School Attendance
- Proof of any child/dependent care costs
- Proof of any child support paid for children not living with you
- Proof of any housing and utility costs
- Proof of any medical costs for people with disabilities or for people over 60 (including prescriptions)

## Publicly Funded Child Care

- Permanent Resident Card or other INS documentation if not a U.S. Citizen
- Verification of Earned and Unearned Income
- Verification of School Attendance (If child is employed)
- Proof of any child support paid for children not living with you

## OWF - Cash Assistance

- Social Security Number or Proof One Has Been Applied For
- Permanent Resident Card or other INS documentation if not a U.S. Citizen
- Proof of U.S. Citizenship if a U.S. Citizen
- Verification of Earned and Unearned Income
- Most recent statements for any bank accounts (checking, savings, credit union)
- Proof of current value of stocks/bonds, certificates of deposit, life insurance, trusts, annuities
- Proof of Identity
- Proof of any child/dependent care costs
- Proof of any child support paid for children not living with you

## PRC - Emergency Assistance

- Social Security Number or Proof One Has Been Applied For
- Permanent Resident Card or other INS documentation if not a U.S. Citizen
- Proof of U.S. Citizenship if a U.S. Citizen
- Verification of Earned and Unearned Income

## Medicaid (Families & Children)

- Social Security Number or Proof One Has Been Applied For
- Permanent Resident Card or other INS documentation if not a U.S. Citizen
- Proof of U.S. Citizenship if a U.S. Citizen
- Verification of Earned and Unearned Income
- Proof of any child/dependent care costs
- Proof of any child support paid for children not living with you
- Proof of any health insurance

## Medical Assistance (Aged, Blind, Disabled)

- Social Security Number or Proof One Has Been Applied For
- Permanent Resident Card or other INS documentation if not a U.S. Citizen
- Proof of U.S. Citizenship if a U.S. Citizen
- Verification of Earned and Unearned Income
- Most recent statements for any bank accounts (checking, savings, credit union)
- Proof of ownership of vehicles
- Proof of current value of stocks/bonds, certificates of deposit, life insurance, trusts, annuities
- Proof of any child/dependent care costs
- Proof of any child support paid for children not living with you
- Proof of any housing and utility costs
- Proof of any medical costs for people with disabilities or for people over 60 (including prescriptions)
- Proof of any health insurance, including Medicare

# How Can Entrepreneurs Take Care of Their Mental Health During the Coronavirus?

COVID-19 is dramatically shifting the professional and personal routines of entrepreneurs and small business owners. Many businesses are implementing remote work for employees as well as their leadership. Working remotely offers the chance to keep operating the business. However, this remote work must be done entirely at home and adhere to practicing social distancing. Entrepreneurs that were already used to going it alone may feel truly alone — isolated and scared, listening to the ever-present dull roar of the news cycle on TV and via social media.

What happens to our health, both physical and mental, during such an unprecedented crisis?

I was able to gain a bit of insight after speaking with Aleya Littleton, a SCORE member and licensed mental health counselor in Colorado at Wild and Wonderful Life Counseling.

**Where Does Stress Begin, Physically and Mentally?** Physically, Littleton says that with access to sanitation and modern healthcare, our bodies can recover. Mentally, the pressure weighs heavy for small business owners struggling to support their clients, employees and selves.

“Stress manifests in the body and behaviors first,” Littleton says. “You’ll start to notice your temper getting shorter, appetite changing, and sleep becoming more difficult. Even cravings for high-calorie foods emerge.” The more stressed out we become, the more our perspective shifts to believe there isn’t time for enjoyable things. “We sense that enjoyable things, like learning new concepts, no longer fit into our schedules,” Littleton adds. “Perspective becomes narrow. This leads to decisions based on fear, which can be destructive in the long term.”

## Using the Stress Continuum to Manage Mental Health

What is the Stress Continuum? Widely used in the military, this is a model developed for individuals and organizations that helps assess and manage stress. Military service members must be resilient in the face of adversity, to protect their fellow members and selves — and survive. Upon returning from deployment, these service members must be able to get back on their feet from operational stress. Typically, this is done through reintegrating with families and communities. It’s key that reintegration is successful; otherwise members could develop mental disorders.

Littleton explains that the Stress Continuum invites you to articulate what your feelings and behaviors are like under stress. This may include reacting to any new stressor, injuries from long-term exposure, or feeling ill as a result of too many stressors and not enough resources to help. All of these are normal symptoms for being under stress.

The more you are able to personalize a Stress Continuum, the

more you will realize there are other symptoms — such as isolation, diet and energy changes, and the need to check in — that may be specific to you.

Once the symptoms have been personalized in the Stress Continuum, you can start creating practices to intentionally move you back into the ready or green zone.

“Seeing each color or stage is a great way to visualize our nervous systems,” Littleton says. She adds it is essential we follow the proper practices to get to the green zone. After prolonged exposure, cortisol has lasting mental and physical health impacts. It may be helpful to call a friend while you are in yellow for now, but that practice will not work as well in the later stages of stress. We must be able to get to the green zone by tending to our nervous system.

## How Can Entrepreneurs Get to the Green Zone?

While you must still be able to personalize your Stress Continuum, here are a few “green” practices one may exercise.

- Taking a walk in a park. Going for a walk, and spending time in nature, is a great decision. It’s even better if you can be in a (literal) green space to further reduce anxiety and rumination. Littleton advises seeking the “awe” during your walk. Think small details like a blooming daffodil, a bumblebee lazily floating in the air, or the funny shapes of clouds.
- Moving. What if there’s not a park nearby? That’s okay — you can still get up and move. Take a break from work to stretch, watch a YouTube video for a Pilates lesson, or even throw yourself a dance party in your home. Gentle movement, she says, will remind us we are alive and have options.
- Volunteer or donate. How can you get involved in donating to a COVID-19 relief fund or assisting in your local community? Consider the ways you may give back to others on a monetary or physical level. For example, your small business may make a donation to relieve an industry in need. If you have elderly neighbors offer to pick up their groceries. This is an act of compassion and kindness that proves we do still possess the ability to make a difference.
- Feel your feelings. It’s okay to cry in the shower. It’s okay to scream into a pillow in your bedroom. It’s okay to be sad or depressed or upset. Right now, you will feel your feelings — all those emotions we generally keep under tight wraps — and it’s necessary to feel them.

What are the healthiest ways to process your feelings? You may see a therapist (or engage in teletherapy services).

Littleton also recommends making space to lose it at home. Even the most put-together small business owner is welcome to take an old magazine and absolutely rip it to shreds or ugly

*See Stress on page 9*



Stress from page 8

cry it out.

“Don’t judge yourself for wanting to burn it all and run away,” she says. “Just feel it. The emotions will all peak and subside.”

As the emotions subside, you may have a glass of tea or a snack afterwards. If you are able, get a hug from a family member or partner. Use this time to FaceTime with a friend or loved one if you live alone.

The sooner you are able to feel your feelings, the faster they will be discharged from your system. Then, you’ll truly be able to focus on your business and its survival — and potential to thrive — during the coronavirus pandemic.

Source: [www.score.org](http://www.score.org)

## Marcus Muhammad

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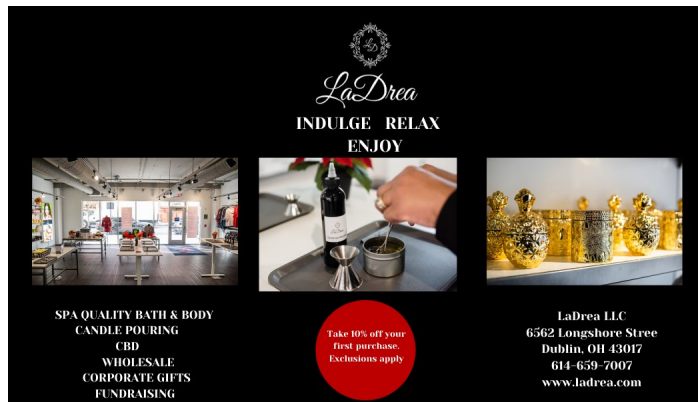
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