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

City of Columbus Commission On Black Girls Honors 2020 Grads

The Class of 2020 is resilient and has a clear vision and promise! The traditional milestones of spring sports, prom, and graduation are either canceled or re-imagined as this year's graduating class is finding unique ways to celebrate their capstone year of high school. In response, the Columbus City Council Commission on Black Girls (COBG) takes the celebration online to honor the achievements of this group of students.

"High school graduation is a rite of passage for which all graduates deserve recognition," said Councilmember Priscilla Tyson. "The Commission on Black Girls is not only focused on enhancing the quality of life of Black girls to ensure their future success, but we also want to celebrate the achievements of Black girls now because we know many times their accomplishments and voices are not heard."

The COBG is utilizing social media to highlight the Black girls that are graduating in 2020. Residents are asked to submit in-



Councilmember Priscilla Tyson

See Girls on page 9

Media's responsibility is to challenge government

Inside this issue:

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Guest Column

Columbus NAACP outraged over Columbus Dispatch's editorial insulting Black-owned businesses.

The Columbus Branch of the NAACP is outraged about an editorial written and posted by the Columbus Dispatch on May 14, 2020. The Dispatch generated editorial directly insulted Black businesses and attacked Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther for attempting to afford black businesses an opportunity to conduct business with the City of Columbus.

The Dispatch editorial blatantly attempted to injure Black businesses by implying Black businesses may not be "capable of doing the job" they are contracted to do.

On the backdrop of multiple decades of the City of Columbus not reaching contracting goals or making a serious effort to engage and contract with Black businesses, it is sad and racist for the Columbus Dispatch to unjustly criticize Mayor Ginther for recognizing that Black business is facing additional disadvantages in the COVID 19 Pandemic crisis.

See NAACP on Page 7





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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.

Mayor Ginther signs executive order to implement disparity study recommendations

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion joined with Mayor Andrew J. Ginther as he issued an executive order to accelerate the recommendations of the disparity study. In response to the disparities found in the 2019 study and the disparate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small, minority and women-owned businesses, today's order is an important step in ensuring our small, minority and women-owned businesses are not left behind in our city's economic recovery.

Over the next several months, ODI office, in collaboration with our consultants, Mason Tillman & Associates and JD2 Strategists, are working with many stakeholders including Columbus City Council and our City Departments to develop an MWBE program, bolster elements of our City Code to support the new program, and secure the technology resources to enable proper tracking and compliance.

The video announcement can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/GsNQp0849kQ>

Franklin County Board of Health Declares Racism a Public Health Crisis

Racism and segregation in Ohio and Franklin County have exacerbated a health divide resulting in Black Ohioans having lower life expectancies than White Ohioans; being far more likely than other races to die prematurely (before the age of 75); and to die of heart disease or stroke, according to the Health Policy Institute of Ohio. Black Ohioans also have a nearly three times higher rate of infant mortality, lower birth weights, are more likely to be overweight or obese, have adult onset diabetes, and have long-term complications from diabetes.

Racism, not race, also causes disproportionately high rates of homelessness, incarceration, poor education, and economic hardship for African Americans. An emerging body of research demonstrates that racism itself is a social determinant of health.

The Franklin County Board of Health is the governing body of Franklin County Public Health. At their May 12, 2020, meeting, the Board joined a growing number of United States cities and counties by declaring **Racism a Public Health Crisis** and acknowledged that the health impact of racism in Ohio and Franklin County is affecting our entire community.

"Much of this work begins by understanding that race is a social construct. Our racial categorization of people has no biological basis. The genome project has proven to us that all humans are 99.9% the same," said Dr. Arthur James, Board of Health member. "The racial differences that we measure are the consequence of the cumulative disparate impact of centuries of policies, practices, and systems that have intentionally provided advantage to some while, simultaneously, intentionally subjecting others to disadvantage."

With this declaration, the Franklin County Board of Health commits to:

- Create an equity and justice-oriented organization, by identifying specific activities, policies and procedures to embrace diversity and to incorporate antiracism principles across the agency, leadership, staffing and contracting. This will include a plan to understand, address, and dismantle racism, in order to undo how racism affects individual and population

See Health on page 9

publisher's note

Black Business Matter!

By Ronda Watson Barber
OhioMBE Publisher



Black businesses matter! This theme has been the focus for OhioMBE since I first began to publish in 2009. I strongly believe that strong vibrant Black businesses are vital to our community. Most Black business owners hire other Black people. Black businesses support community charities and issues. It is important that Black owned businesses thrive and succeed. Our children need positive role models. Our children need to see

Black businesses that are self-sufficient and empowering our society.

The Columbus Dispatch recently dissed Black businesses and our ability to perform in an editorial. In my opinion, their comments were racist. White companies make mistakes and are given opportunities time after time. White folks set-up shell companies to abuse and cheat minority inclusion programs, usually without penalty. The reality is white companies are given special treatment government contracting. The recent disparity study commission by the City of Columbus indicates that Black-owned companies in Central Ohio have been denied opportunities within the city's purchasing scheme.

When given the opportunity, Black owned businesses can perform and excelling. Heck, Black folks have been inventing, building, and creating since we arrived in America. Black folks who were legally prohibited from learning to read and write constructed some of America's most well-known landmarks. Our enslaved kin built The White House, The U.S. Capitol Building, The Smithsonian Institution, Georgetown University, the University of North Carolina, Harvard Law School, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, and George Washington's Mount Vernon.

Black business matters! Our dollars and votes have power. The Dispatch can make outrageous claims about our businesses. So what. We already know how white folks think about us. What are YOU doing to promote and uplift Black businesses and our community? Does your Black business buy products or services from other Black businesses? Are you encouraging your employer to purchase goods and services from Black owned businesses? Does your church buy products or services from

See Publisher on page 9

business advocate

Rory McGuinness
Deputy Director
City of Columbus Dept. of Development



Rory McGuinness

Rory McGuinness is the Deputy Director for Administration for the Department of Development at the City of Columbus. He oversees and coordinates the activities of the Fiscal, Human Resources, Public Information, Legislation & Contracts, and Technology areas. These areas provide the administrative support needed to execute the core missions of the department. He is also the liaison from the City of Columbus to the Columbus Regional Airport Authority. In 2016, he helped to coordinate the City's

efforts to win the \$50 million Smart City Challenge from the U.S. Department of Transportation. From 2012 to 2015, Rory served as a Special Assistant and then Deputy Chief of Staff to Mayor Michael B. Coleman and was the liaison to the Departments of Development, Building & Zoning Services, Public Service, and Recreation & Parks. Rory served as Assistant Director in the Department of Public Service from 2010 to 2012 and managed all city public private partnership projects involving transportation. He serves as the Past Chair of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and formerly the Chair of the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County. He is also a past State President of the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio (NAMI Ohio). Rory was selected as member of the Columbus Business First Forty Under 40 Class of 2017. Rory is a member of the 2015 Class of Leadership Columbus and graduated from The Ohio State University with B.A. in Political Science in 1999.

Rory can be reached at ROMcGuinness@columbus.gov

An advertisement for Vote.org. The background is a blurred image of a tax form with a pen pointing to a field. Overlaid on the image is the text: "ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?" in large, bold, red letters. Below that, in smaller blue letters, it says "FIND OUT NOW WITH OUR FAST, FREE AND EASY LOOK-UP TOOL." In the bottom right corner, the logo "Vote.org" is displayed in red and blue.

www.OhioMBE.com

Beatty-Kennedy Fair Chance for Small Business Relief Act Included in Heroes Act

House Democrats recently introduced *The Heroes Act, H.R. 6800*, a bold and comprehensive bill to address the ongoing public health crisis posed by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic. Included in that legislation is language from U.S. Congresswoman Joyce Beatty (OH-03) and U.S. Congressman Joe Kennedy III's (MA-04) *Fair Chance for Small Business Relief Act*, a bill that would fix a flaw in the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loan Emergency Advance Program that disqualifies small business owners with even minor offenses from critical relief.



Congresswoman Joyce Beatty

"I have heard from countless small business owners in Ohio's Third Congressional District and across the country who been unfairly precluded from obtaining the help they so desperately need. Congress should not be in the business of denying opportunity to people who have paid their debt to society—let alone not even been convicted of a crime," Beatty noted. "That is why Congressman Kennedy and I joined together to do something about it." She continued, "I am pleased to report that The Heroes Act includes a provision mirroring our bill that will ensure small business and micro business owners can obtain the necessary support to weather the financial fallout from COVID-19 and have the chance to build an even brighter future, as opposed to being judged, prejudged, or punished again for mistakes made years prior."

"Small business owners pursuing their dreams should not be punished for past mistakes as minor as marijuana possession," Kennedy said. "By denying these small businesses a lifeline, the SBA isn't just harming their owners, it's punishing their workers, their consumers and their community. It's time to 'ban the box' for small business relief, and I'm proud to lead this effort with Congresswoman Beatty."

Prior to introducing the *Fair Chance for Small Business Relief Act*, Beatty and Kennedy sent a letter to Congressional Leadership on April 15th urging them to ease restrictions on certain small businesses that are ineligible from obtaining assistance through the SBA due to collateral consequences from previous encounters with the criminal justice system.

See Beatty on Page 9

business expert

Remove Frustration from Financial Record Keeping



Christanne Wright

Whether you are starting a new business or running one for a few years, what is one thing that frustrates most of us? Maintaining your financial records!

Here are a few tips to make things a little easier:

1. **Open a separate business bank account.** This would seem to be the normal step for a business owner, but most feel that until they earn "big" money they don't need to. If you are in business, then setup the right supporting tools.
2. **Setup bookkeeping system.** Most don't like to keep track of their transactions, however doing so will help you assess how your business is doing financially. There are free apps like Wave to get you started.
3. **Maintain records.** It pays to keep your receipts, invoices, bills so as to obtain and support the tax deductions on your tax return. You don't want an IRS audit that rejects your deductions because you don't have records of them. A cloud system allows for you to get rid of the paper.
4. **Have a schedule.** Do your recordkeeping every day, week or month on time. Having a schedule will allow you to not misplace receipts or wait too long and now it's faded. It will also keep you from being overwhelmed.

These are just a few items that will make your job as an entrepreneur easier.

Christanne Wright is Founder and CEO of Your Wright Resource LLC. For more details and/or to schedule a free consultation, visit <https://yourwrightresource.com/> or contact her firm at (888) 788-8610 or info@yourwrightresource.com

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

The Columbus NAACP needs your feedback. Please complete their survey so that they can learn more about your experience voting in the 2020 Primary Election.

You can participate in the survey here: <https://forms.gle/q1BHJBKuNoP1XQuDA>

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

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



COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

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Legal Notice: RFP 2020-007 Housing Quality Standard Inspections

The Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking Request for Proposal (RFP) for

the procurement of Housing Quality Standard Inspections Services. The response deadline is Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 2:00PM. A pre-proposal conference is scheduled for 1:00PM Tuesday, May 19, 2020 by Joining Zoom Meeting. Specifications & Zoom Meeting ID may be obtained by visiting our website, 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.



BUILDING CRAFTS, INC. Contractors | Engineers

Building Crafts, Inc., an equal opportunity employer, is soliciting bids from EDGE and ODOT certified DBE, MBE, and

WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **RAR WTP Membrane Softening Addition** in Maineville, OH which bids on **May 28th, 2020**. Items of work to be subcontracted or supplied include, but are not limited to the following: demolition, concrete repair, saw cutting/coring, ready-mix concrete, reinforcing steel supply/erection, precast roof planks, masonry, miscellaneous metals, FRP materials, roofing, caulking and sealants, doors and windows, painting, signage, metal building systems, sprinkler system, fencing, instrumentation & controls, process piping, plumbing, HVAC, and electrical.. Bidding documents can be obtained at <https://www.co.warren.oh.us/commissioners/Bids/Default.aspx> or by calling Ben Call at (859) 781-950. Submit quotes by 8 AM on May 27th, 2020, by email to estimating@buildingcrafts.com or by fax at (859) 781-9505. All bids should include a completed Form 6100-3 DBE Subcontractor Performance Form.

#bidnotices



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bid opportunities

To post a bid notice, call 614-522-9122 or email news@ohiombe.com



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 **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2020** at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

FIRE DAMAGE REHABILITATION AND RELATED WORK at 1314 SYLVAN AVENUE, AKRON, OHIO 44306

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) 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

Bidders may gain access to the interior of the buildings, in order to assess the work, pursuant to the viewing schedule included in the specifications.

See complete ITB at <https://ohiombe.com/archives/14809>



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 **THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2020** at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

COURTYARD RENOVATIONS AND RELATED WORK at FRED W. NIMMER PLACE APARTMENTS 1600 BRITAIN ROAD, AKRON, OHIO 44310

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) 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

See complete ITB at <https://ohiombe.com/archives/14804>

NAACP from page 1

As a result of this overt race-baiting alert by the Columbus Dispatch, The Columbus Branch of the NAACP is earnestly reviewing our options in calling for Central Ohio's Black community to BOYCOTT ALL businesses who advertise in the Columbus Dispatch.

Please be advised of our decision and follow-up actions to come.

Stay Woke
Columbus Branch NAACP
Unit 3177

TAKING BACK THE POWER

The Facts

- Black owned businesses only get 2% of the Black Consumer Dollars.
- If Black Consumers spent 10% more of their income in Black Businesses it would generate 1 million jobs for African Americans.
- After the government, black businesses are the biggest employer of African-Americans.



bid opportunities

To post a bid notice, call 614-522-9122 or email news@ohiombe.com



The Columbus City School District announces a Request for Qualifications for the following projects:

Renovation of HVAC Systems in "Design-Build Delivery Model". The work will consist of one Design-Build contract consisting of: Phase 8 Contract – 2 school facilities. The scope of work includes but is not limited to HVAC renovation with

related electrical, plumbing and architectural work required to complete the project. Criteria services for the project will be provided by Advanced Engineering Consultants, LLC.

A Virtual Informational Meeting covering the projects will be held on Friday, May 22, 2020 at 10:00 AM at the following location: <https://meet.google.com/pdk-gxeg-nus>. To join by phone or app use the following: +1 320-322-1366 PIN: 887 921 525#

Submittals will be evaluated pursuant to ORC Chapter 153, including relevant past work of prospective firm(s), professional and other applicable consultants, quality control, response to CCS Community Inclusion Policy (Local Economically Disadvantaged Enterprise goal is 20% participation) and location of primary firm relative to project location. More information can be found at <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/rfp>

Responding firms are to submit one (1) electronic copy (in pdf format) of their qualifications on the OFCC F110-330 Statement of Qualifications Form (most recent version can be downloaded at <http://ofcc.ohio.gov/Documents/Forms>) to Capital Improvements, Construction Contract Manager; Brandie Bronston Houpe at bbronston@columbus.k12.oh.us. Part 1 is limited to 30 pages. EDGE requirements do not apply to this RFQ. Deadline for submissions is Thursday, June 4, 2020 by 2:00 PM.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. Prevailing wage Rates do not apply to this project. Direct questions to Gregory Leitch at gregoryl@aecmep.com.



Kokosing Industrial, Inc. is preparing bids for the Richard A. Renneker Water Treatment Plant Membrane Softening Upgrades project in Maineville, 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: Demolition, Concrete Reinforcing, Cast In Place Concrete, Precast Hollowcore Planks, Masonry, Metals, FRP Handrails/Railings, Dampproofing, Water Repellants, Building Insulation, Doors/Windows, Acoustical Ceilings, Painting/Coatings, Signage, Fire Protection, Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical, Clearing and Grubbing, Excavation, Flexible Paving, Fencing, Landscaping. Bidding documents can be examined online by emailing Sonja Nichols at snichols@kokosing.biz for the link. Please have your quote to Kyle Kuhlman by 12:00 PM May 27, 2020: e-mail snichols@kokosing.biz or Fax 614-212-5711.

"Kokosing Industrial is an equal opportunity employer."



COLUMBUS
REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

SOLICITATION NOTICE

Invitation to Bid (ITB) AFM-2020-026 4-Wheel Drive Articulating Wheel Loader w/Ramp Cupping Plow (LCK Snow Equipment)

The Columbus Regional Airport Authority values diversity and inclusion and the impact small and minority-owned firms have on the Central Ohio economy. The Columbus Regional Airport Authority invites you to access the following link: www.columbusairports.diversitycompliance.com to register to do business with us and to view new bid opportunities and results.

Email BusinessDiversity@ColumbusAirports.com for questions about the Diversity Programs at Columbus Regional Airport Authority.



"If the world is going to get better, it's going to be up to you" - President Barack Obama

OhioMBE—We Got Bids!
OhioMBE.com

Buy Black

Girls from page 1

formation about Black girls in our community including their daughters, granddaughters, nieces, the girl next door, and the girl in the church choir to help us celebrate. Please share information about girls that COBG can honor.

Here is how you can help us honor Black girls graduating from high school or college:

Online: [Click here](#) to secure the recommendation form

Email: Send a message to CGWilliams@columbus.gov and provide the graduate's name, high school or college, photo, accomplishments, plans after graduation.

Posts honoring Black Girl Graduates will appear on Facebook, Instagram and the Commission on Black Girl's website during May and June. Join us. Let's celebrate these seniors and their 20-20 vision!

Health from page 2

health and provide tools to engage actively and authentically with communities of color.

- Advocate for relevant policies that improve health in communities of color, and supports local, state, regional, and federal initiatives that advance efforts to dismantle systemic racism.
- Work to build alliances and partnerships with other organizations that are confronting racism and encourage other local, state, regional, and national entities to recognize racism as a public health crisis.

"The public health crisis of racism is certainly not a new one," said Commissioner Kevin L. Boyce. "However, COVID-19 has highlighted the effects of the health divide between black and white Ohioans. The pandemic has exacerbated the health disparities we see as a community and I am glad that Franklin County Public Health is moving forward with a focus on racial equity to improve public health and serve our constituents."

"Racism may be intentional or unintentional," said Joe Mazzola, Franklin County Health Commissioner. "We must address injustices caused by racism and we must support actions at all levels to ensure equal opportunity for all."

This declaration builds on the work of the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan, where the Board of Health adopted "Equity" as the foundation for conducting its daily work.

Publisher from page 3

Black businesses? Does your sorority or fraternity buy products or services from Black businesses? If the answer is no. Why?

These are troubling times. We must stick together. It appears Black owned businesses have no friends in current federal administration. Marcus Garvey said it best, "*Be Black. Buy Black. Think Black and everything else will take care of itself.*"

Just my thoughts...rwb

To the litigious: The First Amendment protects several basic freedoms in the United States including freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to assemble, and the right to petition the government. It was part of the Bill of Rights that was added to the Constitution on December 15, 1791. The Constitution applies to Black people too. The views expressed in OhioMBE and the media outlets of The 912 Group are solely those of the author and do not reflect the views/opinions of The 912 Group, the editor, publisher, our staff or our advertisers.

Beatty from page 4

Beatty and Kennedy's bill is supported by SAFER Foundation, Collateral Consequences Resource Center, and NAACP Columbus. *The Heroes Act* will likely be voted on by the U.S. House of Representatives this week.



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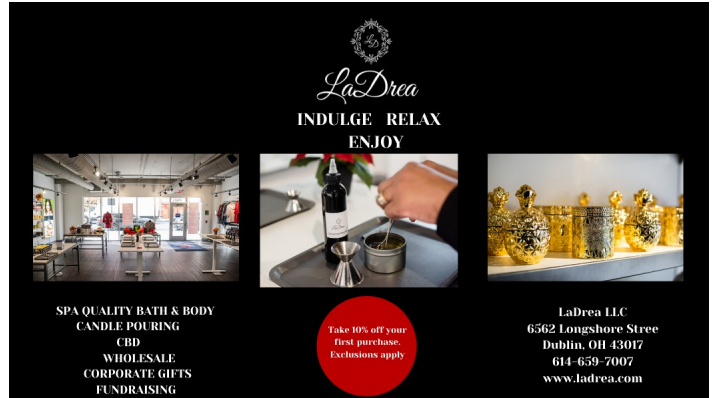
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 Be Black. Buy Black. Think Black and everything else will take care of itself. ~ Marcus Garvey



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