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

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Media's
responsibility
is to
challenge
government

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Ohio provides help for minority owned businesses

Ohio businesses now have access to three new grant and loan programs. Below is an overview. For full text of programs at <https://businesshelp.ohio.gov>.

1). Minority Micro-enterprise Grant Program:

- Up to \$10,000 for small minority and women owned businesses with 10 or fewer employees.
- To be eligible, businesses must have been certified as a Minority Business Enterprise or woman-owned EDGE-certified business as of Feb. 29, 2020; have 10 or fewer employees and up to \$500,000 in annual revenue; and have not received funding under the federal CARES Act.

2) Ohio PPE Retooling and Reshoring Grant Program:

- Up to \$500,000 for Ohio businesses to retool or reshore PPE Production.
- 20% of the available \$20 million is set aside for manufacturers with less than 25 employees.

3) Appalachian Growth Capital Loan Program

- \$10 million in loan funds for Appalachia-based companies.
- Businesses with less than \$40 million in revenue are eligible
- Loans of up to \$500,000 will be offered at 2% interest





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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.

House Dems: GOP election bill sets stage for confusion and chaos in November

Say bill does little to prepare for presidential election amid pandemic

COLUMBUS—Ohio House Minority Leader **Emilia Strong Sykes (D-Akron)** blasted House Republican lawmakers who passed an elections bill that does little to prepare the state’s Boards of Elections to safely conduct a presidential election amid the worst global pandemic in more than a century.

House Bill (HB) 680 shortens the time for voters to request absentee ballots, eliminates the ability for the secretary of state to prepay return postage for ballot applications, and bars the Health Director and other officials from affecting the conduct of elections—even at the risk of public health.

“Chaos and confusion marred this year’s primary, and this bill does little to address the serious concerns of voters, poll workers, voting rights advocates and elections officials from both political parties on how we can conduct a safe, accessible election this November,” **Leader Sykes said.**

“Instead of taking the necessary precautions to prepare us for November, this bill takes us back by making it even harder to vote by mail. We should be making it easier, not harder for Ohioans to exercise their voting rights. We must do better.”

The bill stands in stark contrast to the Democrats’ proposal, [HB 687](#), which would expand online registration, make it easier for Ohioans to vote by mail, and protect safe, accessible in-person voting opportunities amid the coronavirus pandemic, which has already killed more than 2,000 Ohioans.

Democrats offered several amendments on the



Minority Leader Emilia Sykes

floor, including:

- Removing the prohibition on officials from affecting the conduct of elections, which would limit the ability of Ohio Department of Health Director Dr. Amy Acton to determine if in-person voting is safe this November, which was sponsored by **Rep. Allison Russo (D-Upper Arlington).**
- Allowing the secretary of state to prepay return postage for ballot applications and absentee ballots, sponsored by **Rep. Bride Rose Sweeney (D-Cleveland).**
- Removing confusion by allowing ballots to be postmarked by Election Day, rather than the day before Election Day, which was sponsored by **Rep. Catherine Ingram (D-Cincinnati).**
- Mailing ballots to every voter for this November’s presidential election, sponsored by **Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown).**
- Removing language that ends Early Voting at 6 p.m. the Friday before the election, sponsored by **Rep. Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo).**

Republicans rejected each of the Democratic amendments along party lines. HB 680 now moves to the Senate for consideration.



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>

publisher's note

Support Black Businesses

By Ronda Watson Barber
OhioMBE Publisher



I have been reading with great interest corporate declarations that Black Lives Matter. Every organization that has my email address has forward their sentiments acknowledging that America hasn't been kind, fair or just to Black folks. We see the rallying cry in commercials and on social media. Will those same entities change their hiring practices to include the ancestors of enslaved Africans? Will they set up meaningful purchasing inclusion

programs to include Black-owned businesses? If America was found on white supremacy, are folks willing to give up some of their power and privilege for the sake of fairness and justice to Black folks? How will this change in attitudes and more important policies be accomplished? What does the government owe Black folks who have been denied life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness since 1619?

Black businesses matter! In my last column, I commented that I believe that strong vibrant Black businesses are vital to our community. Most Black business owners hire other Black people. Black businesses support Black 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. As the survivors of 401 years of racism and systemic oppression, Black-owned business ownership is even more important. We need to support and take care of ourselves.

Many Black leaders are campaigning and complaining to the Columbus Dispatch their adamant displeasure with an editorial spewing out racist stereotypes. Again. Who cares what the Columbus Dispatch thinks about Black businesses. Are those same leaders doing business with Black-owned businesses? Are their law firms, construction companies, social service agencies, and churches buying goods and services from Black folks? We need to support and take care of ourselves during the Covid-19 and Racism pandemics.

What are YOU doing to promote and uplift Black businesses in

See Publisher on page 10

business expert

Paycheck Protection Program Forgiveness



Christanne Wright

So you have received your PPP funds. Congratulations! But, now what? You have a very limited time to use these funds.

You have to spend it the way the Treasury Department and Small Business Administration (SBA) has deemed proper.

These funds can be used to pay your business' payroll. This was the primary purpose of the loan when it was drafted and passed into law. Also, you may use no more than 25% of these funds on business mortgage payments, rent or lease payments and utility payments.

Forgiveness Documentation

- Payroll information including payroll tax filings, health insurance info, or third-party payroll service provider reports;
- Copies of rental lease agreement, mortgage amortization schedule, utility invoices
- Cancelled checks and bank statements

Documentation must be kept for 6 years after the date the loan is forgiven or repaid in full.

I'm Christanne Wright, Owner of Your Wright Resource LLC. Our team has done the research and we know that clients need bookkeeping, payroll and recordkeeping in order to meet the requirements for the PPP. We are happy to assist you so your loan may be forgiven.

Contact us today at (888) 788-8610 or info@yourwrightresource.com to schedule your free consultation.



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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>



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 mlfarrenkopf@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>.



“Certified ODOT and City of Toledo MBE/WBE Companies”

Kokosing Industrial, Inc. is preparing bids for the Toledo Bay View WWTP Secondary Improvements Phase I project in Toledo, Ohio which bids June 9, 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: **Cast In Place Concrete, Reinforcing Steel, Metal Fabrications, Railings, Painting, Slide Gates, and Electrical**. Bidding documents can be examined online by emailing Sonja Nichols at snichols@kokosing.biz for the link. Please have your quote to Chad Lampe by 12:00 PM June 8, 2020: e-mail snichols@kokosing.biz or Fax 614-212-5711.

“Kokosing Industrial is an equal opportunity employer.”



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority is requesting proposals for consideration in the competitive selection to provide professional Information Technology Support Services at all AMHA Properties within Summit County, Ohio. Those interested in submitting a proposal for the aforementioned work may obtain the instructions/information package by contacting SE Blueprint, 520 South Main Street, Suite 2411, Akron, Ohio 44311. (330) 376-1689 akron@seblueprint.com

Proposals, to be considered, must be submitted in accordance with the requirements of the RFP and received by AMHA no later than 4:00 p.m. (local time) on Wednesday, June 24, 2020.

Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
Brian M. Gage
Executive Director



City of Columbus Planroom

1393 E. Broad Street - Suite 104

614-645-5663

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bid opportunities

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



Attention: "Certified Ohio and City of Columbus MBE/WBE Companies"

Kokosing Industrial, Inc. is preparing bids for the Parsons Avenue Water Plant Collector Well Pump Replacement, CW 101, 104, and 115 project in Columbus, Ohio which bids June 3, 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, Concrete Rehab, Concrete Reinforcing, CIP Concrete, Painting, Electrical, Instrumentation and Controls.** Bidding documents can be examined online by emailing Sonja Nichols at snichols@kokosing.biz for the link. Please have your quote to Justin Arnold by 12:00 PM June 2, 2020: e-mail snichols@kokosing.biz or Fax 614-212-5711.

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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 this country hasn't broken your heart, you probably don't love her enough. ~ U.S. Senator Cory Booker

#ohiombe



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, JULY 1, 2020** at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

ANNUAL UNIT COST CONTRACT TO FURNISH AND INSTALL CARPET/FLOORING AND RELATED WORK at VARIOUS AMHA TAX CREDIT LOCATIONS WITHIN SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

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

All bids must be accompanied by a bid guaranty in the amount of **Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)** and must be in the form of a Certified or Cashier's check on a solvent bank, made payable to the AMHA. The bid guaranty submitted with the bid will be held as a guarantee that if the proposal is accepted, a contract will be entered into.

The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to re-advertise our bids, and to waive any informality in bids received whenever such rejections, re-advertisement or waiver is in the best interest of the Housing Authority.

No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of (60) days subsequent to the opening of bids without the consent of the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority.

View complete bid notice at <https://ohiombe.com/archives/15000>

bid opportunities

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



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View full bid notice at <https://ohiombe.com/archives/14998>



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View full bid notice at <https://ohiombe.com/archives/14995>



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it's going to be up to you" -
President Barack Obama

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(Publisher from page 3)

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

Black business matters! Our dollars and votes have power.

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.

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BLACK OWNED & OPERATED



Columbus Ohio Branch 3177



The OhioMBE and Columbus Branch of the NAACP are distributing signs Black-Owned Business signs. You can download a sign at OhioMBE.com and place in your business window. We are encouraging customers to support and protect Black-owned businesses.