**Ohio's Largest Black-owned Business Newspaper** 

FREE



June 19, 2020

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Ronda Watson Barber—Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

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

# #BLACKLIVESMATTER



# **DEMAND:**

# Freedom Justice Equity

Media's responsibility is to challenge government

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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.

#### Rep. Miranda Co-Sponsors Resolution To Declare Juneteenth A Federal Holiday

COLUMBUS — **State Rep. Jessica E. Miranda (D-Forest Park)** signed onto a concurrent resolution urging Congress to designate June 19<sup>th</sup> a paid federal holiday. This date is to be known as Juneteenth Independence day in recognition of June 19, 1865, when news of the end of slavery reached the southwestern states two months after the end of the American Civil War.

"The designation of June 19<sup>th</sup>, Juneteenth, as a federal holiday is long overdue. I am proud to co-sponsor this resolution to ensure this important date in American history is recognized on a yearly basis. As we grapple with how to heal as a nation from the most recent chapter of racial injustice, recognizing landmark events such as Juneteenth are critical."

This resolution comes on the heels of civil unrest across the nation in support of racial equity and justice for Afri-

State Rep. Jessica E. Miranda (D-Forest Park)

can American communities. Federal acknowledgement of this notable date is one way to ensure minority communities can annually commemorate their history.

### Dems Tell LaRose to Pay Return Postage for Voting Materials

Election Working Group presses for responsible use of CARES Act funds

COLUMBUS — State Representatives Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo), Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown), Catherine D. Ingram (D-Cincinnati) and Bride Rose Sweeney (D-Cleveland) sent a letter to Secretary of State Frank LaRose urging him to include return postage on absentee ballot application forms that will be mailed to all voters and on absentee ballots that are ultimately mailed to voters who request them. State law prohibits board of elections from making such an expenditure, but the secretary is not similarly barred. The federal CARES Act included funding to the states for unanticipated increased expenses due to COVID-19. The Controlling Board approved on Monday the state's use of federal CARES Act funding for this year's election.

See the letter below:

June 17, 2020

Dear Secretary LaRose,

We write to ask that you include return post-

age on the absentee ballot applications that we authorized you to send to every registered voter in last year's state budget bill, HB 166, and to use federal CARES Act funding for this purpose. We also ask that your office use federal CARES Act funding to include return postage on the absentee ballots themselves. This is not just a matter of an extra step or the cost of a stamp, although we should always strive to remove even small obstacles from Ohioans' path to the ballot. This is a matter of health and survival.

Prior to this year and the unprecedented dangers of COVID-19, voting by mail was a convenient option for those who desired to vote that way. Now, it is a matter of protecting one's health and life. Now, going to the Post Office or the store and picking up stamps is not just an easy errand people run. Now, people are limiting their trips and disinfecting everything they bring into their homes. That's why we must make absentee voting by mail as appealing and easy to use as possible. That's why we urge you to ensure that all ballot application forms and ballots are sent with the return postage pre-paid.

The federal CARES Act provides for the expenditure of federal funds granted to Ohio for

See Postage on page 16

# publisher's note

#### **Happy Juneteenth!**

By Ronda Watson Barber Publisher of OhioMBE



Happy Juneteenth!

Juneteenth marks the celebration of the final acts of the emancipation of enslaved Africans. On June 19, 1865, the announcement was made that those enslaved in Texas were free. The announcement can two-and-ahalf years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863. The proclamation was ignored by the Confederate States

until the Civil War was over.

How are you celebrating freedom? Today, I spent some time reflecting on the horrors and struggles our ancestors experienced in America. I am thankful for their many sacrifices. I thought about my grandfathers who went to war for America, came home and were regulated to minimal work opportunities to support their families and racism. As I think about it, my "greats" are hopefully smiling with glee. Imagine, me a Black woman in America, almost free-ish. I am educated. I can read and write. I own a business. I own a newspaper where I am able to express my opinion without the penalties.

Collectively as we celebrate Juneteenth, we need to plan for our futures. What will we leave the next generation? We have to demand freedom, justice, and equity. We have to vote and become politically active. Our votes have power. We have to buy black regularly! Our dollars have power.

We are experiencing a revolution. A rainbow of folks are marching in the streets. They are marching to end systemic racism. They are demanding justice. They are demanding that the United States government respects our dignity and rights as humans. They are marching for economic opportunities.

Rev. Al Sharpton said it best as he eulogized George Floyd, "We could run corporations and not hustle in the street, but you had your knee on our neck. We had creative skills, we could do whatever anybody else could do, but we couldn't get your knee off our neck. What happened to Floyd happens every day in this country, in education, in health services, and in

See Publisher on page 18

#### **Columbus NAACP Demands a Citizens Review Board**

The NAACP Columbus Branch emphatically demands the formation of a Citizens Review Board with sweeping powers and sweeping police reform, including legislation mandating a zerotolerance approach in penalizing and/or prosecuting police officers who kill unarmed, nonviolent, and non-resisting individuals in an arrest procedure.



NAACP President Nana Watson

NAACP President, Nana Watson demands Columbus City Council, City of Columbus Mayor, Andrew Ginther, and Columbus City Attorney, Zach Klein to move with all hast to develop and implement the Citizens Review Board in association with the Executive Leadership of the NAACP.

100 years ago, in 1920, a flag was flown from the headquarters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that read "A Man Was Lynched Yesterday." Today in 2020 the message is still prevalent. In 2019, Black people made up 24% of fatal police incidents despite only making up 13% of the United States Population. There were only 27 days that Police Officers across America went without killing someone in 2019.

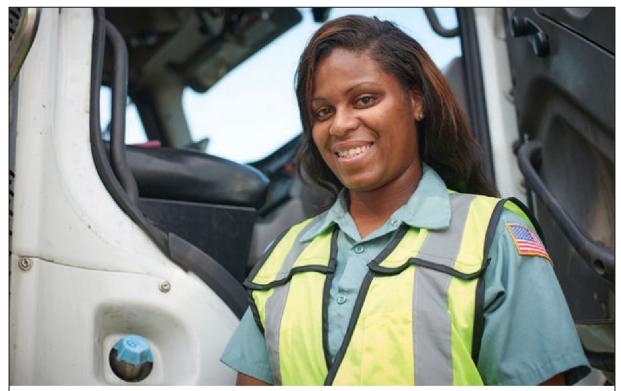
For far too many centuries, Black people across the country have been treated as if our lives mean nothing. We have been brutalized, murdered, disregarded, and so much more. Enough is enough; we are tired of seeing our Black family members laying lifeless in the streets. We are tired of America's racist broken record playing over and over again. Our lives matter just as much as our white counterparts. There are too many names, too many stories, too many hashtags, and too many times that we have to raise these issues to demand justice. This cycle must end right now. Enough is enough!

The NAACP Columbus Branch maintains the time is now to demand a Citizens Review Board as directed by the National Office of the NAACP.

- Creating a Citizen Review Board for fatal & excessive force police incidents, with subpoena powers.
- Increased and recurring mandatory training around racial bias, mental health, and de-escalation tactics.
- A ban on the use of knee holds, and chokeholds, as an acceptable practice for police officers.

See NAACP page 11





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# bid opportunities

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



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 <a href="http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/rfp">http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/rfp</a>



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 <a href="mailto:eavoorhees@columbus.gov">eavoorhees@columbus.gov</a>).
- 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 <a href="mailto:mlfarrenkopf@columbus.gov">mlfarrenkopf@columbus.gov</a>) or Seth Brehm (614-645-5659 or <a href="mailto:swhbrehm@columbus.gov">swhbrehm@columbus.gov</a>).
- 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 twtilton@columbus.gov).
- Lead abatement. Contact Erica Hudson (614- 645-6739 or <a href="mailto:ejhudson@columbus.gov">ejhudson@columbus.gov</a>).

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



#### NOTICE TO VENDORS

Columbus City Schools is seeking a vendor (s) to provide face masks disposable / cloth and hand sanitizer. Interested vendors can find the Invitation to Bid at <a href="http://www.ccsoh.us/">http://www.ccsoh.us/</a>

<u>Vendors.aspx</u> > Solicitations>Electronic Bids — Public Purchase> Invitation to Bid #531.

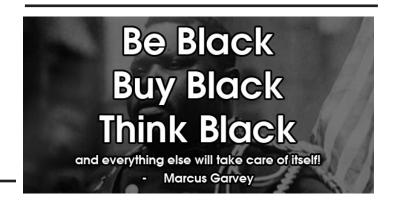


COMMUNITY. COMMITMENT. COLLABORATION.

Legal Notice: RFP 2020-009 Professional Property Management Services (Gables West)

The Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking

Request for Proposal (RFP) for the procurement of Professional Property Management Services (Gables West). The response deadline is Monday July 6, 2020 at 2:00PM. A pre-proposal conference is scheduled for 10:00 AM Friday, June 26, 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.





# City of Columbus Planroom

Open Tues. & Thursday noon to 4:30

1393 E. Broad Street - Suite 104

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# bid opportunities

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

# Looking for bid notices?





# Support **Black Businesses** in 2020

#### **JOIN THE COMMISSIONERS**

#### For an Interactive Small **Business Listening Session**

You will hear directly from small, minority, and women business owners about their experiences during the pandemic shutdown, and how the county can help get them back on their feet, as well as from an economist with a forecast of what we can expect in the coming months.



#### TIME & TOPICS

June 10th - 1 P.M. Neighborhood Retail June 17th - 2 P.M. Women Business Owners

June 24th - 1 P.M. Local Supply Chain





Zoom Meeting ID: 998 1032 0673 Password: 161667 Phone #: 929-436-2866



COMMISSIONERS.FRANKLINCOUNTYOHIO.GOV



## Columbus Branch of the NAACP



NAACPColumbus.org

Nana Watson—President
Rev. Joel L. King, Jr—1st Vice President
Pastor John T. Coats, II—2nd Vice President
Pastor Marvis McGowan— 3rd Vice President
Brenda Davis—Secretary
Brandi Slaughter—Assistant Secretary
Vice McNatt—Treasurer
Louella Day-Jeter—Assistant Treasurer



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THE 912 GROUP 912



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- FEET Stay more than 6ft apart
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#### 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 Blackowned & 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
- 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?



THE 912 GROUP

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#### **Virtual Meeting Etiquette**

To help you keep your meetings productive and professional, follow these seven simple virtual meeting



etiquette rules and tips.

- 1. Leave the keyboard alone. Whether you're diligently taking notes like a model employee or sneakily chatting with your work bestie, the sound of your typing is distracting. It's not only distracting everyone else in the meeting (because your laptop's internal microphone is inches away from your keyboard), it's also preventing you from devoting your full attention to the meeting. Opt for a quality headset or pick up your notebook and pen to take meeting notes instead.
- Dress appropriately. One of the magical things about working remotely is the freedom to wear anything to work. It's the dream, right? Still, there's no reason to show your co-workers your PJs and bedhead. (Unless it's a joke the whole team agrees on, in which case we approve).

Take a few minutes to throw on a clean shirt and brush your hair. The best part of actually getting ready while working remotely is that you'll put yourself in the right headspace to be productive.

 Be aware of your surroundings. Your coworkers won't be able to hear your ideas or take you seriously when there is a pile of dirty clothes in the corner be-

See Meetings on page 13



# **City of Columbus Planroom**

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#### NAACP from page 3

- The Use of Force Continuum for Columbus Police must ensure that there are at least 6 levels of steps, with clear rules on escalation.
- Eliminating the loopholes that allow Police officers involved in fatal & excessive force incidents to move to a different department.
- Police Departments should be reflective of the communities they serve. More Minorities hired.
- Ensure transparency, accountability, and safety of our communities, by requiring front-facing cameras to be actively recording for all police officers who are on duty.
- Review of the State's Open Records Acts to determine if Officer misconduct information and disciplinary histories are shielded from the public.
- Review of the Police Department record of Disciplining or charging Officers charged with misconduct.

#### Statement from Youth Leadership

Courage has not skipped this generation and we will not stop fighting for Black lives. Being silent during these times does not make you a neutral leader. It shows all of America that you are choosing the side of the oppressor and contributing to the problem. This fight isn't just for George Floyd, or Breonna Taylor, or Tony McDade, or Dreasjon Reed, or Eric Garner, or Sandra Bland. This fight is for all of the victims of police brutality whose names and stories we know and those that were never told. Help us ensure that their deaths are not in vain.



P: 469,451,1005 E: hi@ladycimonnecandleco.com W: www.ladycimonnecandleco.com



@ladycimonnecandleco



I'd rather go down in history as one lone Nearo who dared to tell

the government that it had done a dastardly thing than to save my skin by taking back what I said. -

Ida B. Wells

### #bidnotices



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# **#BLACKLIVESMATTER**

#### Why you should get your business certified?

There are several reasons why you should get your business certified:

- 1. Some entities have purchasing goals. Only certified businesses can participate.
- Certification adds legitimacy to your business. You have gone through a process that has determined that your business is owned and controlled by a minority, woman or disadvantaged business.
- Certification can afford you loan and bonding opportunities. The State of Ohio has loan and bonding programs specifically for certified minority owned businesses.
- Certification can be a marketing tool for your business. You can add your certifications to your marketing materials, business cards, website, etc. Many consumers like during business with veteran, minority or woman owned businesses.
- Certification can be used in the private sector. Many companies don't have a certifying program but in an effort to have supplier diversity, will accept the certifications from some governmental agencies.

Attend a class and learn how to get your business certified. Visit

OHBDC.eventbrite.com for the upcoming class schedule.







#### Kenyada (Kay) Brown

Account Executive

Direct | 614-852-4693 Cell | 216-421-4344

kenyada.brown@goosehead.com

7720 Rivers Edge Drive, Suite 225 Columbus, OH 43235 goosehead.com Meetings from page 10

hind you. You also want to avoid looking like you work from the inside of a cave because of bad lighting.

Adjust your work setup so that you face a window or are exposed to plenty of light. And make sure your background is professional and work appropriate! This means:

- No beds (unmade or made) in the background
- No messy rooms or open closets where everyone can see your clutter
- No NSFW artwork

While kids and pets are adorable (and a much needed distraction when you're feeling overwhelmed), your coworkers won't love having to talk over a screaming child or barking dog. So, be mindful of noise and...

5. Mute your microphone when you're not talking. There's nothing more frustrating than hearing that alien echo noise from conflicting microphones. Save everyone from the ear-splitting madness by joining the meeting while on mute!

Unless you live alone, your house is probably pretty noisy these days. Muting your microphone when you're not speaking gives other participants the ability to chime in and share their thoughts without distraction or frustration.

6. Speak up. When you enter a small meeting (around two to five people) announce yourself when you join. It can be awkward to hear the "someone-just-joined" ding followed by silence. When you hop on the meeting, introduce yourself and say hi – just make sure not to interrupt someone mid-sentence.

Don't be afraid to project your voice, too! Your team will appreciate being able to hear you without having to strain their ears or turn their volume all the way up.

7. No food allowed. Try to eat a snack before your virtual meeting. No one wants to see you stuff your face with chips while

See Meetings on page 14



#### YOUR WRIGHT RESOURCE

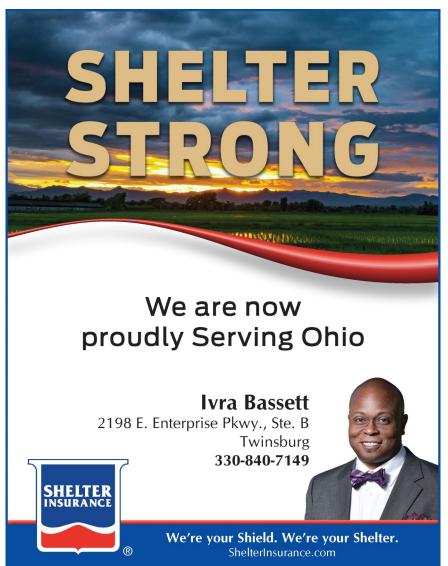
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The Columbus NAACP needs your feedback. Please complete their survey so that they can learn more about your experience voting in the 2020 Primary Election. You can participate in the survey here: <a href="https://forms.gle/q1BHJBKuNoP1XQuDA">https://forms.gle/q1BHJBKuNoP1XQuDA</a>







Meetings from page 13

discussing important business matters. Not only is it distracting to others, you won't be able to focus on the task at hand because you'll be worrying about dropping crumbs all over your keyboard.

8. Stay seated and stay present. It may be tempting to check your inbox or carry on a side conversation during a dull moment in a meeting, but don't do it! You might miss out on key information or an opportunity to give input. If you're using your webcam, use attentive body language: sit up straight, don't make big extraneous movements, and don't let your eyes wander too much.

Source: GotoMeetings.com



Contact us to meet your VBE contract requirements.

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Danny Portee, CEO
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# Buy Black



Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has

reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome.—Booker T. Washington

OhioMBE.com

# Ohio Diversity Network

Friday, June 19, 2020 at 11:00am
Representative Sedrick Denson: Lunch With Your Legislator

Friday, June 19, 2020 at 4:00pm

NAACP: Juneteenth Black Family Reunion

Friday, June 19, 2020 at 6:00pm

We Belong Here: Becoming Watch Party & Discussion

Saturday, June 20, 2020 at 10:00am OBDC: Certification Saturday

Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 11:00am

OBDC - Payroll Protection Program Virtual Workshop

Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 12:00pm OBDC: The Planroom Is Open Columbus

Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 1:00pm

**Board Of Commissioners: Small Businesses Listening Sessions** 

Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 2:00pm

**OBDC: How To Write A Great Capability Statement** 

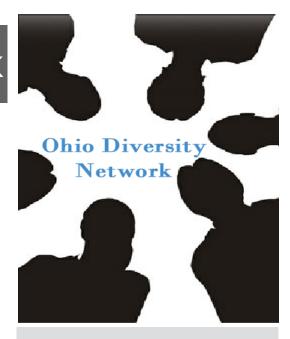
Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 12:00pm OBDC: The Planroom Is Open

Columbus

Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 12:00pm OBDC: The Planroom Is Open

Columbus





#### Hosting a business event?

Did you know you can post it on OhioDiversityNetwork.com?

Email: news@ohiombe.com for login information

OhioDiversityNetwork.com is sponsored by:



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OHIOMBE

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OBDC VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

# PAYROLL PROTECTION PROGRAM

So you have received your PPP funds. Congratulations! But, now what?



June 23 11 am

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Postage from page 2

this purpose. And the payment of return postage for applications and ballots is permitted under state law as well. In your most recent Task Force meeting, you called for suggestions on how to make the application form userfriendly. Including return postage is the single most important thing you can do to maximize Ohioans' use of this safe voting opportunity.

We would also welcome the opportunity to review the draft ballot application form and other new ballot paperwork that your office may be developing so that we may give feedback on whether our constituents like the forms and how it might be improved. Good design of voting materials should be an interactive process with diverse input.

Secretary LaRose, recall the history that finally spurred Ohio to make the changes that gave us this decade plus of expanded early and mail voting. The election of 2004 was a tragic event in our state. People waited three hours, four hours, eight hours to cast their votes. There weren't cell phone videos of it then, but many of us were there, helping people in out of the rain and cold, helping them find chairs to rest and weave through church basements for the chance to vote on one of the five machines set up for thousands of people. This scene repeated itself throughout our state. Many people left the lines because they could not wait any longer. They had to tend to jobs, school, children. We must not repeat this awful treatment of Ohioans. We must do everything in our power to not be like Georgia last week or Ohio in 2004.

We owe Ohio voters an extra duty to ease voting this November after the chaotic and disenfranchising primary election with historically low turnout and historically high rejection of ballots. Improving Mail Voting with common sense will take pressure off of Early Voting and Election Day voting. Please let us know soon that you will include return postage with Ohio voters' ballot applications and ballots as the law allows. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Keep up-to-date at OhioMBE.com

#### Tips for Working at Home

- Build a Permanent Work Space. Designate an area of your home, specifically for getting work done. Be sure your workspace is quiet so you can concentrate on the task at hand.
- Invest in Quality Technology. setting up a home office or workspace may require a small investment. Much like starting a new business, you may have to purchase technology, such as a desktop, laptop, tablet, or remote phone system to do your job every day. Invest in whatever you need to comfortably and efficiently do your job.
- Get Comfortable Office Furniture. You
  may also need to invest in office furniture
  if you haven't already. Depending on the
  amount of space available, consider purchasing a large desk, bookshelves, and a
  comfortable office chair.
- 4. Set Real Work Hours. If you are going to make working from home an everyday commitment, then set specific business or work hours. The beauty of working from home is that you can be flexible in setting your working hours. For example, if you are most productive in the morning, or if you need to get the kids to school, then you may want to set your work hours from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. Use your deep focus to zoom through your tasks. Keep reading to see how to manage your time effectively. Enforce a hard limit at the end of the day. Distance yourself from work, so you don't work nonstop.
- 5. Avoid Work Creep. A career that lets you work from home can be invasive in your personal life. This is because if you are always home and near your work, then your work creeps into your home life. Yes, the risk is real, but only if you let it.

This goes back to setting work hours. By setting specific work hours and sticking to them, you will increase performance and develop a healthy work schedule.

At the end of the day, shut down your laptop, set your work app to "away," and shut your office door. You (and your team) will be grateful.

Source: <a href="https://www.nextiva.com/">https://www.nextiva.com/</a>









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I swear to the Lord I still can't see why democracy means everybody but me.— Langston Hughes

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every area of American life, it's time for us to stand up in George's name and say get your knee off our necks... The reason why we are marching all over the world is we were like George, we couldn't breathe, not because there was something wrong with our lungs, but that you wouldn't take your knee off our neck. We don't want no favors, just get up off of us and we can be and do whatever we can be.

Just my thoughts. Rwb

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You can't separate peace from freedom, because no one can

be at peace unless he has his freedom. - Malcolm X





We are not ready to fight because we love fighting. We are ready

to fight because we are worth fighting for. — Zoe Samudzi





If you know whence you came, there is really no limit to where

you can go—James Baldwin





We all require and want respect, man or woman, Black or

white. It's our basic human right.— Aretha Franklin

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