Ohio's Largest Black-owned Business Newspaper

FREE



July 15, 2020

Published by The 912 Group, Itd.

Ronda Watson Barber—Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

Volume 11—No. 10

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



Media's responsibility is to challenge government

Inside this issue:

Page 2:

Dems tell LaRose AGAIN to pay return postage for voting materials

Page 4:

EmployOhio

Page 5:

Bid Opportunities

EMILY's List Names Ohio House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes Its 2020 Gabrielle Giffords Rising Star Award Winner

By Maiysha Kai

The nation's largest resource for women in politics is recognizing a rising force in the political world. On Thursday, EMILY's List announced its 2020 recipient of the Gabrielle Giffords Rising Star Award is Ohio House Minority Leader Emilia Sykes, who represents Ohio's 34th House District. The award, due to be presented at the virtual We Are EMILY Conference on July 27, "celebrates an extraordinary woman serving in state or local office," according to a statement provided to The Glow Up.

"The award honors a woman who demonstrates the sort of commitment to community, dedication to women and families, and determination and civility that have been the highlights of former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords' career, in and out of office," the statement continued, noting that the virtual presentation will feature remarks by the award's namesake herself.

The Rising Star Award has previously been awarded to former Georgia House Mi-



Ohio House Minority Leader—Emilia Sykes



OhioMBE is published on the 1st and 15th of each month and is distributed free by The 912 Group, LTD. The publisher reserves the right to edit, reject or cancel any advertisement or editorial copy at any time and will not be responsible for checking the accuracy of items submitted for publication.

Legal Stuff: 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 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 advertisers.

Copyright © 2020 All Rights Reserved. Ronda Watson Barber, Editor-in-Chief & President www.OhioMBE.com rbarber@ohiombe.com

P.O. Box 533 Granville, OH 43023 614-522-9122 news@ohiombe.com

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.

Dems Again Demand LaRose Take Action, Pay Return Postage

Election Working Group urges Secretary not to hold back on powers of the office to avoid election disaster

COLUMBUS— State Representatives Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo), Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown), Catherine D. Ingram (D-Cincinnati) and Bride Rose Sweeney (D-Cleveland) today sent a letter to Secretary of State Frank LaRose again urging him to include return postage on absentee ballot application forms and the absentee ballots themselves. State law prohibits boards of elections, but not the secretary, from paying return postage. COVID-19 cases have risen sharply in Ohio since the foursome last urged LaRose to take this step to encourage mail voting on June 18.

See the letter below:

July 14, 2020

Dear Secretary LaRose,

Conditions have deteriorated since we last wrote to you on **June 18.** The safety of Ohio voters and all the professionals who run our elections is our top priority. **With cases of COVID-19 rising, continued inadequate testing, protective gear shortages, and slowdowns at the Post Office, voters are fearful.** We are in a crisis and the window to solve it is closing. You must act. In fact, at this point, you are the only one with the power to take action. Voters are at your mercy.

Hoping for the best is not a plan for a successful November election. We urged you on June 18 to pay return postage for voters' absentee ballot applications as well as their absentee ballots. We believe that you have the authority as the state's top election official to implement this small opportunity so that electors face no unnecessary burden. This would be a major incentive for more people to adopt mail voting. As you know, we need many more people to use mail voting to relieve pressure on strained in-person early voting and Election Day voting, which are also crucial components of a successful election.

We have not heard a response from you and your recent <u>directive</u> and materials suggests voters will be on their own again to calculate and obtain postage during this pandemic. Instead of using

See Voting on page 10

Sykes from page 1

nority Leader turned gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams (2014), former Boston City Councilwoman turned U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley (2015), and Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx in 2018, making Sykes the latest in a legacy of dynamic women who have indeed risen in the political sphere. And Sykes knows something about legacy. Hailing from Akron, she has not only earned a B.A. in Psychology, a JD with a certificate in family law, and a Master of Public Health, but she is the daughter of former state Representatives Barbara Sykes and Vernon Sykes (now an Ohio state senator). The elder Sykes collaboratively held the seat their daughter now holds until 2014, meaning the Sykes family has represented the 34th House District since 1982.

Founded in 1985, EMILY's List (EMILY is an acronym for "Early Money Is Like Yeast") is one of the most progressive and proactive organizations in contemporary politics, having raised over \$600 million to elect pro-choice Democratic women candidates. Additionally, nearly 40 percent of the candidates EMILY's List has helped elect to Congress have been women of color. Stephanie Schriock, president of EMILY's List said in a statement:

Emilia Sykes is a phenomenal legislator and champion for civil rights, and EMILY's List is proud to honor her with the 2020 Gabrielle Giffords Rising Star Award. As Ohio House minority leader,

publisher's note

Can we combat the racism pandemic?

By Ronda Watson Barber Publisher



Racism is a pandemic. It has been one of the evils perpetrated in the world. Will it finally be resolved? Times are changing. Can you feel it? Can you see it? It's both exciting and scary. A diverse coalition of people across the planet is demanding equality. Folks are protesting around the world for basic freedoms and human rights. Young people are heavily involved in this movement. They are leaders. They are working to make a better future

for themselves. George Floyd's death at the knee of a Minneapolis police officer was the spark that lit the powder keg. Systemic racism and police brutality are being challenged. Black folks are demanding full citizenship in the United States.

Full citizenship comes with a price. How and will the privileged relinquish their power and control? How will white affluent communities accept the possible transfer of government resources to other neighborhoods in an equity effort? How will the criminal justice system, housing, banking, insurance, healthcare and other facets of American life be made more equal and fair?

Private corporations are professing their beliefs that Black Lives Matter in advertising campaigns. How will those sentiments play out in human resource offices and purchasing departments? Will the same companies and organizations that claim to respect and honor diversity be inclusive in hiring and purchasing?

OhioMBE will be polling local organizations on their diversity and inclusion efforts with both workforce development and purchasing. We will be challenging organizations to put their money behind their words. A monthly report will be generated and available online.

"Freedom is not something that anybody can be given. Freedom is something people take, and people are as free as they want to be" — James Baldwin

Just my thoughts - rwb

To the litigious: The First Amendment protects several basic freedoms in the United States including freedom of religion,

Why you should get your business certified?

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

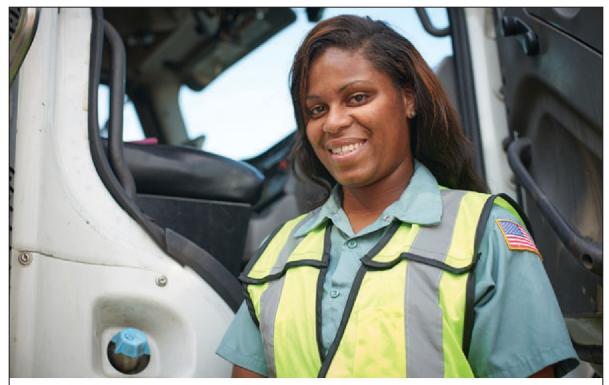
- 1. Some entities have purchasing goals. Only certified businesses can participate.
- Certification adds legitimacy to your business. You have gone through a process that has determined that your business is owned and controlled by a minority, woman or disadvantaged business.
- 3. Certification can 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.

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 U.S. Constitution applies to Black American as well. 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, families, or our advertisers.







Waste Management is Now Hiring in Columbus, Ohio

Competitive Pay, Great Benefits!

careers.wm.com | Text WASTE to 51893 or call 877-220-5627 for More Information Equal Opportunity Employer: Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran



THINK GREEN:

Need to post a job opening? We will email, post, tweet, share and print your information to our 10,000 online subscribers.



Email us at news@ohiombe.com for details.



legal notice

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



NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 3313.41(A)

On January 7, 2020, the Board of Education ("BOE") of the Columbus City School District ("District") approved a resolution to dispose of the real property located at 120 S. Central Ave. (Old Starling), at the appraised value of \$1,230,000.

The property will be offered for sale pursuant to Section 3313.41(A) of the Ohio Revised Code at a public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, August 27, 2020, at 889 E. 17th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

For additional information, to obtain a copy of the form contract, or to schedule tours call the Real Estate & Shared Facilities Office at (614) 365-5164. The property is being sold on an "as is" basis, the BOE

makes no representation or warranty concerning the property, and the purchaser must rely solely upon its own examination of the property for physical condition, character and suitability for such purchaser's intended use. The BOE reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

OHIOMBE

NOT GETTING OHIOMBE IN YOUR INBOX? CHECK YOUR SPAM!



Don't miss out on our weekly update.

OhioMBE.com



Sykes from page 2

Emilia has proven her dedication to her community, working across the aisle to nearly double the amount of bipartisan legislation passed by the State House, and empowering women by fighting to re-establish the Ohio Women's Policy and Research Commission. She continues to be a leading voice on racial health disparities in the COVID-19 pandemic and passionately calls out systemic oppression of the Black community, including writing a resolution demanding the declaration of racism as a public health crisis. As co-chair of the Legislative Task Force on Redistricting, Reapportionment, and Demographic Research, Emilia will hold officials accountable and ensure a fair redistricting process in 2021. We are proud to celebrate Emilia's fearless leadership and we could not be more excited to see where her work takes her in the future.



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 http:// www.columbus.k12.oh.us/rfp



DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Development S 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 eavoorhees@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 twtilton@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.



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS S Columbus Regional Airport

RUNWAY REHABILITATION AND MOS IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2B PROJECT #20041 RICKENBACKER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Columbus Regional Airport Authority invites you to visit ColumbusAirports.com to sign-up for RSS feeds to automatically receive notifications of new bid opportunities and results.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Akron Metropolitan

questing proposals for Purchasing Card services.

Those interested in submitting a proposal for the aforementioned service may obtain the instructions/information package by contacting the AMHA Finance Department at (330) 376-9687 or via AMHA's website at www.akronhousing.org.

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 Tuesday, July 21, 2020.

Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority Brian M. Gage **Executive Director**



INVITATION FOR BIDS

Sealed bid proposals will be Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority received by the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority at

100 West Cedar Street, Akron, Ohio 44307 until 2:00 p.m. local time on TUESDAY, JULY 28, 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 BRITTAIN 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 full bid notice at https://ohiombe.com/archives/15130

bid opportunities

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

Looking for bid notices?





REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority is requesting proposals for Purchasing Card services.

Those interested in submitting a proposal for the aforementioned service may obtain the instructions/information package by contacting the AMHA Finance Department at (330) 376-9687 or via AMHA's website at www.akronhousing.org.

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 Tuesday, July 21, 2020.

Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority Brian M. Gage Executive Director



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 TUESDAY, JULY 28, 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 BRITTAIN 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 the full bid notice at https://ohiombe.com/archives/15130



bid opportunities

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

LEGAL NOTICE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES



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 9 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, July 24, 2020 at 1:00 PM at the following location: https://meet.google.com/mcv-ipig-aqh. To join by phone or app use the following: + 1 629-888-0932 PIN: 910 904 957#

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, August 6, 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.





REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

itan Housing Authority is requesting proposals for consideration in the competitive selection to Provide, Maintain, and Service Satellite/Cable TV and Internet System at William Fowler Apartments, 65 Byers Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44302.

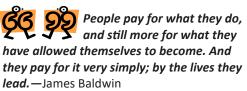
Those interested in submitting a response to this request may obtain the instructions/ information package by contacting SE Blueprint, 520 South Main Street, Suite 2411, Akron, Ohio 44311. (330) 376-1689 seblue@seblueprint.com

Proposals, to be considered, must be received by AMHA no later than 4:00 p.m. (local time) on Wednesday, July 22, 2020.

Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority Brian M. Gage Executive Director

5 Real Ways to Actually Support Black- Owned Businesses...

- Don't automatically expect or demand a discount.
- Know that having black endorsements isn't the same as being black-owned.
- 3. Recognize the struggle, and don't knock it.
- Accept that a product or service being blackowned doesn't imply that it's of lower quality.
 - Recommend or promote a black-owned business when given the opportunity.





Masks = Kindness

Face masks don't silence our voices; they protect us from getting sick.

For more information, visit Columbus.gov/coronavirus



OHIOMBE

NOT GETTING OHIOMBE IN YOUR INBOX? CHECK YOUR SPAM!



Don't miss out on our weekly update.

OhioMBE.com

Questions to ask those seeking elected office

- 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 economy?
- 6. Are minority business set-asides and goals in city/county/state government still important and why?
- 7. What can the city/county/state do to improve its purchasing with minority businesses?
- 8. What should minority owned businesses do to get city/county/state contracts?
- 9. Is there anything else, aside from contracting that the city/county/state can do to assist MBE's?
- 10. Who are the major contributors to your campaign?



Media | Production | Creative

Services

three-leaf.com

(614) 626-4941





4

Estella Blake

Independent Associate

Small Business, Employee Benefit Specialist

Office: 614-557-0882

Email: KnowYourRights@blestbiz.com Web: eblake.WeAreLegalShield.com

Legal Plans (Business & Personal)

- Talk To A Lawyer, No high hourly Cost
- Contract & Document Review (15 pages)
- Letters/Phone Calls on Your Behalf
- Debt Collection Assistance
- · Trial Defense Services*
- · Will Preparation, And More

Identity Theft: Monitoring & ID Restoration

Kes Harris Trucking

Do you Need Aggregates such as #304, #411, #310, #4s, #2s, #57s, #8s and #9s, limestone gravel, sand, riprap, dirt/topsoil, and mulch products for your next project?

We can supply & deliver

MBE, EDGE & DBE Certified



937-605-1111 - cell 937-323-8486 - office 937-882-6204 - fax kestruck@aol.com

OhioMBE can announce your next business event, employment notice or news item in an exclusive email blast.



We will also post it on our Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn Pages.

news@ohiombe.com | 614.522.9122

Voting from page 2

existing federal funding and advocating for more federal funding to cover voters' return postage, you have issued an order to voters that reads "First Class Postage Required."

Mr. Secretary, your record so far is troubling. The botched voter purge last fall has left us behind where we should be in voter registration numbers. Your rollout of the delayed primary election was a disaster and resulted in one of the lowest levels of voter participation in modern history. Trust in our elections took a hit. Election officials and poll workers were pushed to the brink, learning whether the election was on or off in the middle of the night or in some cases after polls were opened at 6:30am on St. Patrick's Day and then immediately closed again. We cannot and will not do that to election officials, poll workers, and voters again, will we?

You have it within your authority to make mail voting a more trustworthy option for voters during this pandemic by paying the return postage on their absentee ballot applications and their absentee ballots. Please do not say that you need the legislature to make every decision for you like you did in the primary. You have the powers you need. Do everything in that power to remove this obstacle for voters and to encourage and ease mail voting for Ohioans. These last few weeks were another wakeup call. What will the weeks ahead bring? Let's be prepared.

Sincerely,

Paula Hicks-Hudson State Representative, District 44Chair, House Democratic Caucus COVID-19 Elections Working Group

Michele Lepore-Hagan State Representative, District 58

Catherine D. Ingram State Representative, District 32

Bride Rose Sweeney State Representative, District 14





YOUR WRIGHT RESOURCE

CHRISTANNE K. WRIGHT OWNER/BUSINESS ADVISOR

888-788-8610 8333 Edinboro Rd #1, Erie, PA 16509 Christanne.Wright@yourwrightresource.com www.yourwrightresource.com



OhioFBE.com



Help stop coronavirus

- 1 HANDS Wash them often
- 2 ELBOW Cough into it
- 3 FACE Don't touch it
- 4 FEET Stay more than 6ft apart
- 5 FEEL sick? Stay home



We are now proudly Serving Ohio

Ivra Bassett

2198 E. Enterprise Pkwy., Ste. B
Twinsburg
330-840-7149





We're your Shield. We're your Shelter.
ShelterInsurance.com

Keep
up-to-date
at
OhioMBE.com



I'd rather go down in history as one lone Negro 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

www.OhioMBE.com

Ohio Diversity Network



CERTIFICATION SATURDAY

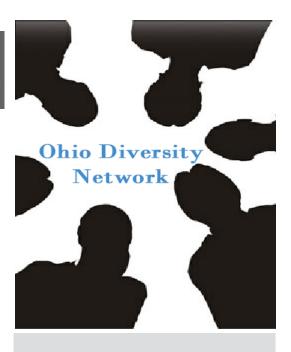
ONLINE

7/1810:30 am to

11:30 am OHBDC.eventbrite.com

Get certification and registration information from

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



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:



OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



#bidnotices

#BLACKLIVESMATTER



10-28-2020