

Ohio's Largest Black-owned Business Newspaper

FREE



August 1, 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

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TO VOTE?**

**The deadline to
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**Media's
responsibility
is to
challenge
government**

Inside this issue:

Page 2:
Congresswoman
Beatty's Tribute to Free-
dom Fighter John Lewis

Page 4:
EmployOhio

Page 4:
Rules for using the SBA
Economic Injury Disaster
Loan

Page 4:
COVID-19 Coping Tips
for Small Business Own-
ers

Page 5:
Bid Notices

Page 12:
Ohio Diversity Network

#bidnotices





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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 our advertisers.*

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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.

Remembering Congressman John Lewis

By Congresswoman Joyce Beatty

This week, our nation said goodbye to a national treasure and the world one of its greatest fighters and defenders of freedom and justice. [I lost a beloved friend, colleague, and mentor.](#) The Congress lost its ‘conscience.’

To honor Congressman John Lewis (GA-05), [I introduced the Congressman John R. Lewis Election Day Act of 2020, H.R.7820.](#) If enacted into law, this measure would make November 3, 2020 a national holiday in remembrance of the Civil Rights icon. Throughout his entire life, John Lewis put his body, freedom, and life on the line in the pursuit of justice, civil rights, and equal access to the ballot box. Now, it’s up to all of us to continue his lifelong work to build brighter futures for all Americans—and that begins by ensuring every voter can freely, easily, and expeditiously cast their ballot this upcoming election.

In addition to writing H.R. 7820, I was proud to support, and pleased to see unanimous approval of, the renaming of the Voting Rights Advancement Act, H.R. 4, as the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act. This comprehensive, much-needed piece of legislation, of which I am an original cosponsor, seeks to restore the full protections of the landmark Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 by modernizing the VRA formula to guarantee any voting changes do not adversely affect voters by requiring officials to publicly announce all voting changes at least 180 days before an election. Moreover, H.R. 4 expands the government’s authority to oversee fair, free elections at localities where there is deemed to be a substantial risk of discrimination or voter intimidation. John Lewis’ sacrifices were instrumental in the passage of the VRA in 1965, so it is fitting that the bill to restore its protections is now named for him. The bill was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on December 6, 2019 but has stalled in the U.S. Senate since.

During my time in Congress, I have had the



Congresswoman Joyce Beatty

unbelievable privilege to work with John Lewis on enshrining voting rights and protections, curbing gun violence, economic empowerment, and a whole host of issues important to workers, families, and small businesses. I will never forget joining Lewis in crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama to commemorate the 50th anniversary of ‘Bloody Sunday’ and traveling across Central Ohio with him to discuss the importance of the Voting Rights Act. Likewise, I will never forget the sights and sounds of the past few days at the official Lying in State Ceremony as well as the Celebration of Life in his adopted hometown of Atlanta, Georgia.

Although he may no longer be here with us, his legacy is an inspiration to people all across the country and around the globe and surely will be for generations. In that spirit, we must keep fighting for social justice, voting rights, quality education and affordable healthcare for every soul. To paraphrase Lewis, we must “never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble.”

Leader Sykes: "We Don't Trust Any Of Them."

New Speaker Cupp follows federal indictment of former Speaker Householder

House Minority Leader Emilia Strong Sykes (D-Akron) issued a statement today after House Republicans voted to make Rep. Bob Cupp (R-Lima) the next Speaker of the House. Every member of the Democratic Caucus voted against him.

“We don’t trust any of them.”

publisher's note

Inclusion in purchasing is important if Black Lives Matter

By Ronda Watson Barber
Publisher



The revolution continues. America is changing. Young people are leading. They are boldly and bravely speaking out. There have been recent reports that Black students who attend Central Ohio's private and suburban public school districts are posting on social media about the racism and microaggressions they experience daily while at school.

The district officials have publicly stated that they value all students enrolled in their schools. I know the suburban public school districts value the tax revenue and sports acclaim and stadium receipts Black students bring. District leaders have pledged that changes will be made. Will those changes be reflected in the purchasing departments as well? An inclusive purchasing department reflects the valuing of Black lives.

OhioMBE will be revamping up its Procurement Fair series. The first virtual OhioMBE Procurement Fair will be August 19. An invitation will be forwarded to all local public school districts. In the past, we have only received participation from Columbus City Schools and Grove Port Schools. Regularly, numerous requests have been made to Upper Arlington, Bexley, Whitehall, Worthington, Westerville, Pickerington, Reynoldsburg, Olentangy, Grove City, and Gahanna to no avail. In six years of hosting the OhioMBE Procurement Fair, none (folks who are paid with tax dollars) have found the importance of meeting with small and Black-owned businesses. I have received rude and possibly racist comments from some board members, superintendents, and purchasing agents when asking them to participate or send a representative. Essentially, most suburban schools are practicing taxation without participation. It can't continue to be business as usual. If you live in the burbs, you may wish to challenge your elected school board on its purchasing inclusion policies, while they are asserting Black Lives Matter. Black-owned business matter too!

All children need to see Black-owned businesses providing goods and services to their public school district.

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?

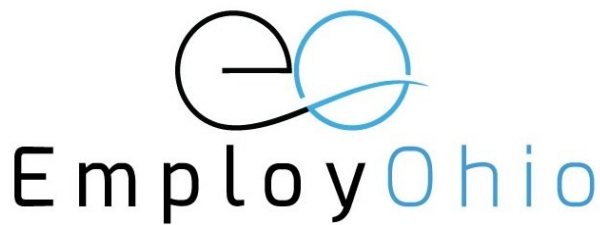
There are several reasons why you should get your business certified:

1. Some entities have purchasing goals. Only certified businesses can participate.
2. 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.
4. 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 doing business with veteran, minority or woman owned businesses.
5. 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 Americans 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.





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Email us at news@ohiombe.com for details.

COVID-19 Coping Tips for Small Business Owners

The COVID-19 pandemic has created uncertainty for small business owners, both in their professional and personal lives. Depending on local guidance, you may be heading back to work or continuing to run operations remotely. As you are navigating these changes, it's important to establish a balanced and healthy lifestyle outside of work. Here are some tips from the [National Institutes of Health](#) (NIH) to help you cope.

Take Care of Your Body

When you feel your best physically, you're more energetic and productive. Exercise, for example, makes people more alert and attentive, enabling better focus on your business. Even a little goes a long way! You may not have access to your usual gym, local rec center, or community pool, but you can still stay active by taking walks outside – or by following along with online exercise videos on hotter days.

Connect with Others

It's more important than ever for small business owners to have a support system outside of work. Maintaining personal and professional connections may be more difficult than before the pandemic; However, there are still plenty of options for keeping in touch – including scheduling video calls with friends and loved ones throughout the week to blow off steam.

Also, make a point of cultivating a network of business mentors and peers who can serve as a sounding board as you navigate your business's new normal. Connect with fellow small business owners via LinkedIn or Facebook groups – and if you're in need of experienced business advice, set up a video chat or phone appointment with a local [SBA resource partner](#).

Make Time to Unwind

See Coping Tips on page 10

Rules for using the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan

By Christanne Wright
Your Wright Resource



Christanne Wright

The SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan is a working capital loan. This means that the funds can only be used for the day to day, normal expenses

incurred in your business. There are some restrictions on its use that could cause the SBA to demand the repayment of the funds immediately. In order to prevent that outcome, we wanted to provide you with some guidance on what is considered “normal operating expenses.”

Normal Operating Expenses

- Rent/Mortgage
- Utilities
- Telephone
- Office Supplies
- Insurance
- Loan/credit card payments
- Website
- Advertising
- Merchant/Bank fees
- Bookkeeping/Accounting
- Payroll
- Inventory

Not Approved Uses

- Dividends and bonuses
- Purchase of Equipment
- Expansion
- Refinancing of Debt – Credit cards, lines of credit, etc.
- Pay down of other Federal loans
- Repairs of physical damages
- Relocation

This information was provided by Your Wright Resource.
YourWrightResource.com

A PPP webinar hosted by Your Wright Resource, OhioMBE and the Ohio Business Development Center is available for downloading at <https://ohbdc.org/digital-course-training-downloads/>

Our nation's small businesses are emerging from an unprecedented economic disruption due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is dedicated to helping small businesses get back on their feet. Below are resources and services to support you during this challenging time.

Financial Resources

The loss of income from COVID-19 has presented significant obstacles to small business owners and their employees. SBA programs that have helped offset the economic impact from COVID-19 include:

- Paycheck Protection Program (PPP): Accepting new applications through August 8, the PPP is an SBA-backed forgivable loan that has helped small businesses and non-profits continue to pay their employees during the COVID-19 outbreak. The PPP Flexibility Act, passed last month, has extended the covered period for loan forgiveness to 24 weeks after the loan disbursement and lowered the amount of loan proceeds that must be used for payroll costs from 75% to 60%. Forgiveness is mostly based on the employer maintaining or quickly rehiring employees and maintaining salary levels. Forgiveness will be reduced if full-time headcount declines, or if salaries and wages decrease. The loan forgiveness form and instructions include several measures to reduce compliance burdens and simplify the process for borrowers.
- Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL): EIDL helps small businesses overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. These loans can be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster (and that aren't already covered by a PPP loan).
- SBA Express Bridge Loans: These loans allow small businesses who already have a business relationship with an SBA Express Lender to quickly access up to \$25,000.
- SBA Debt Relief: As part of SBA's relief efforts, the agency will automatically pay the principal, interest, and fees of current 7(a), 504, and microloans for a period of six months. SBA will also automatically pay the principal, interest, and fees of new 7(a), 504, and microloans issued prior to September 27, 2020.

SBA also works with lending partners to provide SBA-

**OHIOMBE VIRTUAL
PROCUREMENT FAIRS**

August 19, 2020

**Need a meeting with
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guaranteed export loans. These loans – such as Export Express loans – can help exporting businesses respond to opportunities and challenges associated with trade, including COVID-19.

[Small Business Resilience Hub \(SCORE\)](#)

[Checklist: Reopening Your Small Business After the Coronavirus Shutdown \(SCORE\)](#)

[COVID-19 Small Business Resources \(SBDCs\)](#)

[Federal Resources for US Small Businesses \(SBDCs and WBCs\)](#)

This is an extraordinary time for all Americans, especially small business owners. SBA is committed to supporting you every step of the way as our country emerges from this pandemic. Ongoing updates regarding COVID-19 resources for small businesses can be found at sba.gov/coronavirus.

Source: sba.gov

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>



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>.



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, AUGUST 25, 2020** at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

BASEMENT WATERPROOFING AND RELATED WORK at VAN BUREN HOMES 410 PASADENA PLACE, BARBERTON, OHIO 44203

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 full bid notice at <https://ohiombe.com/archives/15251>



To those who have said, 'Be patient and wait,' we have long said that we cannot be patient. We do not want our freedom gradually, but we want

to be free now! We are tired. We are tired of being beaten by policemen. We are tired of seeing our people locked up in jail over and over again. And then you holler, 'Be patient.' How long can we be patient? We want our freedom, and we want it now. - Congressman John R. Lewis in 1963 March on Washington



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 **TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020** at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

ELECTRICAL UPGRADES AND RELATED WORK at MAPLEWOOD GARDENS PUMP STATION 500 HARDMAN DRIVE, CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO 44224

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 bid notice at <https://ohiombe.com/archives/15243>



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 **FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2020** at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

LOBBY RENOVATIONS AND RELATED WORK at AMHA ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 100 WEST CEDAR STREET, AKRON, OHIO 44307

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

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held by the Housing Authority at the AMHA Administration Building, 100 West Cedar Street, Akron, Ohio 44307, on **MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2020 at 2:00 P.M.**

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

See full bid notice at <https://ohiombe.com/archives/15263>

OHIO MBE

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bid opportunities

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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.

Looking for bid notices?

WE GOT BIDS!



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OhioMBE.com/bid-opportunities

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Mary L. Nutter
Owner / Manager
5195 Hampsted
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New Albany, Ohio 43054-8331
Office: 740-791-4070
Cell: 614-562-8409
mary@maylonenterprises.com
www.maylonenterprises.com
OH LIC #PL13180

Be Black Buy Black Think Black

and everything else will take care of itself!
- Marcus Garvey

#bidnotices

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COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
CITY COUNCIL



Masks = Kindness

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

For more information, visit Columbus.gov/coronavirus

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 Black-owned & 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?

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

news@ohiombe.com | 614.522.9122



Coping Tips from page 4

Intentionally carve out time for yourself each week. This “me” time is different for everyone but should include relaxing or entertaining activities that help you recharge. Ideas include reading, watching a movie, cooking, gardening, doing arts and crafts, or meditating.

While relaxation time can often feel like a remote luxury for busy small business owners, it’s essential to preventing burnout, so hold yourself accountable and don’t skip out on this time.

Set Goals and Priorities

With seemingly a million things to do to run a business, it can be hard to pinpoint where to start. The first step is to make a list of everything you need to get done. Then, prioritize your to-dos based on deadlines and other factors. Break down large, unwieldy projects into smaller, more manageable tasks. Revisit your business plan to make sure that the areas you’re focusing on aligning with your overall business goals. If you’re still having trouble prioritizing, enlist the help of a business mentor. Find a business mentor near you with [SBA’s local assistance tool](#).

During these difficult times, small business owners remain resilient, always finding new and better ways to get things done. You tend carefully to your business, but don’t forget to take care of yourself too. Visit [NIH’s website](#) for more coping tips – and sba.gov/coronavirus for small business relief options.

Source: sba.gov

BLACK BUSINESS MATTERS

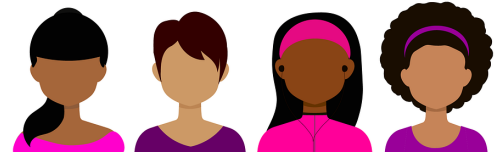
Support Black Businesses



YOUR WRIGHT RESOURCE

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Christanne.Wright@yourwrightresource.com
www.yourwrightresource.com



OhioFBE.com



DO THE FIVE

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

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*I'd rather go down in
history as one lone Ne-
gro 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



OHBDCC.org
Ohio Business Development Center

OHBDCC

CERTIFICATION SATURDAY

ONLINE

8/8

10:30 am to
11:30 am

OHBDCC.eventbrite.com

Get certification and registration information from

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

This Virtual training will also be held on August 22.

OBDC WORKSHOP

How to Write a Great Capability Statement



A Capability statement is a promotional or marketing statement about your business and its capabilities and skills that advertises who you are and what you do.

However, Capability Statements must be tailored to your audience: the government buyer or prime contractor.

August 12 @ 2 pm
Virtual Training

FOR MORE INFORMATION
OHBDCC.EVENTBRITE.COM



OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



Ohio Diversity Network

Hosting a business event?

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ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



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10-28-2020