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

## The OhioMBE Procurement Fairs are BACK!

The OhioMBE Procurement Fairs are back. We have revamped our program. The August 19 OhioMBE Procurement Fair will be virtual. You can still meet one-on-one with purchasing representatives from your computer. Reserve your spot at OhioMBEProcurementFairs.com.



The following organizations are participating:

- City of Columbus Office of Diversity & Inclusion
- City of Columbus Purchasing Dept.
- Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority
- Elford Construction
- Franklin County Commissioner's Office

(See Procurement Fair on page 4)

## Building Banking Relationships Webinar—August 17

The barriers for Black-owned and small businesses outlined by the Small Business Administration's Payroll Protection Program illustrate a need for business owners to establish better business banking relationships.

The Ohio Business Development Center, City of Columbus Office of Diversity & Inclusion, the Ohio Bankers League, OhioMBE and Wesbanco Bank are presenting a series of financial literacy webinars.

"The goal of the series is to provide financial literacy information in an effort to grow and develop Black-owned businesses. The recent civil unrests and the corona virus pandemic disclosed very disturbing financial racial inequalities. We have to create businesses and establish generational wealth," said OhioMBE publisher Ronda Watson Barber.

The first installment of the financial literacy program will begin on August 17. Sabra Kershaw, Vice-President with Wesbanco Bank and Stephanie Watson, Vice-President of Professional De-

(See Banking on page 4)



Sabra Kershaw

Media's  
responsibility  
is to  
challenge  
government

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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.



**Beautiful Black Girls  
become  
Beautiful Black Women**



After two years of work, countless hours of public testimony, a survey focusing on Black Girls aged 11-22, and listening sessions, the Commission on Black Girls released the report outlining its findings and next steps to ensure Black girls in Columbus have equal access to opportunities for success.

Many of the recommendations address education, mentoring and leadership, healthcare, safety, racism and bias training, health and well-being, economics, issues experienced by LGBTQ+ youth and families and youth in the child welfare system.

To view the report visit <https://www.columbus.gov/council/tyson/Commission-on-Black-Girls/>

## **Black lawmakers urge LaRose to do more as pandemic continues**

*Reps question beer tour, spending plan for \$23 million in federal funds*

COLUMBUS— State Representative **Paula Hicks-Hudson (D-Toledo)** and **Catherine D. Ingram (D-Cincinnati)** today sent a letter to Secretary of State Frank LaRose raising concerns about the treatment of Black voters who are being disproportionately harmed by the coronavirus pandemic. The lawmakers requested the secretary's voter outreach plan, noting that he has undertaken an Ohio craft brewery tour without specific legal authority or funding to do so. They also requested his budget for using the \$23 million in federal funds granted to the state and approved by the Controlling Board for spending on the election.

See the letter online at <https://ohiombe.com/archives/15370>

## **Ohio General Election Information**

**ELECTION DAY**—Nov. 3, 2020

**In-Person Absentee Voting:**  
Oct 6, 2020 - Nov 2, 2020

**Voter Registration Deadline:**  
Mon Oct 5, 2020

## **Deadline to Request an Absentee Ballot:**

Received by Sat Oct 31, 2020  
12:00PM EDT

## **Deadline to Return Completed Absentee Ballot:**

In-Person, Received by Tue Nov  
3, 2020 7:30PM EST

# publisher's note

## The Summer of 2020

By Ronda Watson Barber  
Publisher



The summer of 2020. There are so many words to describe it. It's been hot! Not only has the temperature hit records highs, so have the quest for change in America. The Summer of 2020 will be memorable. The Summer of 2020 has been chaotic! One fire on a multitude of levels. Change is going on. A global pandemic is occurring and in the U.S., because of the lack of federal leadership Black folks are dying at disproportional rates. The

coronavirus has devastated our economy. Unemployment is high. Big and small businesses are closing as a result of stay at home orders and other government health decrees. Revised professional sports seasons. Civil unrest and protests are happening in the streets. Racism is being called out. Racism is also being practiced and promoted from the highest branches of government. Our country is being bullied by a minority of our citizenry, remember the racist impeached president didn't win the popular vote in 2016. The Summer of 2020 shows the continued demand for equity in housing, health, education, you name it. There has been a fierce call for justice in policing. A national racial reckon with the decries of Black Lives Matter. Voter suppression. The attempts the disband United States Postal Service. An upcoming presidential election.

What will the push for equity bring? What will the results of the tumultuous Summer of 2020? What part are you playing in this historical time in America? What stories will you share with your grandchildren about how you worked to make things better in 2020?

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 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.*

## Congresswoman Beatty Celebrates Black Women's Equal Pay Day

Today, August 13, 2020, is Black Women's Equal Pay Day, which marks the number of days a Black woman must work into the year to earn what her white male counterpart earned in the previous year. As a strong advocate and supporter for racial and gender pay equity, U.S. Congresswoman Joyce Beatty (OH-03) issued the following statement:



Congresswoman Joyce Beatty

"On average, Black women are paid 62 cents for every dollar made by a White male in corporate America. Over time, the loss of \$23,000 a year in wages--and more than \$900,000 during the course of a forty-year career--perpetuates wealth inequality and further expands the racial wealth gap. If the historical trend continues, it will take over 200 years for Black women to achieve pay equity with their white male counterparts. At a time when Black women are working to overcome student loans and debt, as well as are the primary caregivers for their families and an essential component of the workforce, we must overcome this systemic inequity if we are to ensure all communities can attain the American Dream. As a Black woman, I raise my voice in support of ending racial and gender pay inequity and encourage all companies to implement policies to foster pay equity for all workers and eliminate systemic bias that perpetuates these inequities.

When Black women succeed, America succeeds!"

To learn more about Black Women's Equal Pay Day, visit [the American Association of University Women's website](https://www.aauw.org/).



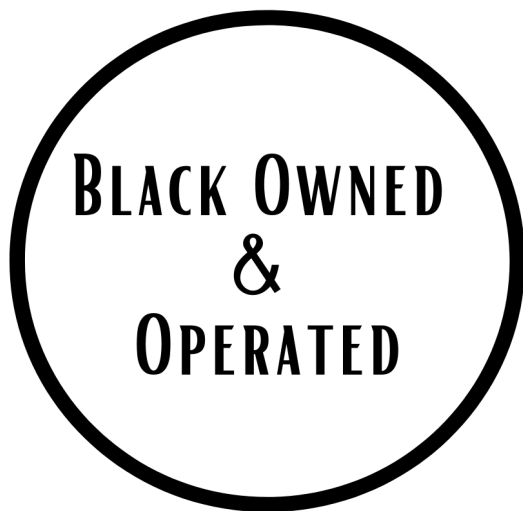




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up-to-date  
at [OhioMBE.com](http://OhioMBE.com)

#bidnotices

*Procurement Fair from page 1*

- Ohio State Medical Center

The OhioMBE Procurement Fairs are embarking on six years of providing contracting access to small and Black-owned businesses. Participants have had access to over \$500 million in contracting opportunities each year.

Small businesses reserve 15-minute time slots to meet online with organizations who are committed to inclusion in their purchasing scheme.

Registration is required.

*Banking from page 1*

velopment with the Ohio Bankers League will provide tips on how to build banking relationships.



Stephanie Watson

Register at [OHBDC.eventbrite.com](http://OHBDC.eventbrite.com)



## A Path to Entrepreneurship for Military Spouses

Military spouses stand and serve alongside our men and women in uniform, making it possible for our Service members to defend our country. Through their commitment and dedication to their partner, military spouses show unwavering support for our nation's Armed Forces while balancing the many demands of military life.

Military spouses make constant sacrifices for their families as they deal with multiple deployments and the added pressure of a loved one being away for extended periods while raising and supporting their families. Due to the nature of this lifestyle, it can be challenging for military spouses to find and retain employment.

The good news is that entrepreneurship can be a transportable and flexible employment opportunity for military spouses that supports military careers – and the SBA is here to assist military spouses on their entrepreneurial journey.

Whether it's through counseling, training, or access to capital opportunities, military spouses can take advantage of all the SBA resources available to veterans.

To support and empower military spouse entrepreneurs, the SBA will host a virtual Military Spouse Entrepreneur Summit in collaboration with Second Lady Karen Pence and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Hiring Our Heroes on August 19, 2020, from 1-3:30 p.m. EDT.

This free event will address the challenges faced by the military spouse small business community and highlight resources and best practices for starting or growing a small business. Aspiring or current military spouse entrepreneurs will learn how to take advantage of SBA and resource partner network programs.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to learn about entrepreneurship tips, disaster preparedness, access to capital, and government contracting from distinguished speakers from the Veteran Entrepreneurial Training & Resource Network, Institute for Veterans and Military Families, Dog Tag, The Rosie Network, the Department of Defense Military Spouse Employment Program, and the Military Family Advisory Network.

For more information about the SBA Military Spouse Entrepreneur Summit and to register, visit <https://events.hiringourheroes.org/d/37ql80>. To join the conversation on social media, use hashtag #SBAMilSpouseSummit.



## Small Businesses Received \$132.9 Billion in Federal Contracts in New FY19 Procurement Scorecard; Women-Owned Contracting Goal Met For the Second Time in Scorecard History

Every year, the federal government spends over \$400 billion on goods and services, making it the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world. Recently, the U.S. Small Business Administration released the annual [Fiscal Year 2019 Small Business Federal Procurement Scorecard](#), which tracks and assesses each agency's yearly and individually negotiated small business prime and subcontracting performance and determines grades ranging from A+ to F

The SBA announces that in FY19 the federal government not only exceeded its small business contracting goal, it awarded a historic \$132.9 billion or 26.50 percent in prime contract dollars to small businesses. This is an increase of \$12 billion from FY18, earning the federal government an "A" on SBA's Scorecard. This smashes the record-setting \$120 billion the federal government awarded to small businesses in FY18.

It was a record-breaking year for women-owned small businesses too. For the second time ever since the implementation of the women-owned contracting goal, the federal government met the five percent contract goal awarding \$26 billion in federal contracts, or 5.19 percent to women-owned small businesses.

The federal government also awarded nearly \$90.7 billion in subcontracting dollars to small businesses. The prime and subcontracting dollars combined amount to one million jobs created that are supported annually through federal contracting. These jobs help to build communities and fuel the nation's economy.

Source: [sba.gov](https://www.sba.gov)



*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

# bid opportunities

To post a bid notice, call 614-522-9122 or email [news@ohiombe.com](mailto: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](mailto:eavorhees@columbus.gov)).
- Grass Cutting and Solid Waste Removal. Contact Mike Schwab (614-645-7122 or [mfschwab@columbus.gov](mailto:mfschwab@columbus.gov)).
- Demolition and Asbestos Abatement. Contact Mike Farrenkopf (614- 679-5873 or [mlfarrenkopf@columbus.gov](mailto:mlfarrenkopf@columbus.gov)) or Seth Brehm (614-645-5659 or [swhbrehm@columbus.gov](mailto:swhbrehm@columbus.gov)).
- Property Maintenance and Miscellaneous Services in November 2019. Contact Audrea Hickman (614-645-8907 or [ahickman@columbus.gov](mailto:ahickman@columbus.gov)).
- Construction trades including: General Construction, Home Improvement, Electrical, HVAC, and Plumbing. Contact Tim Tilton (614- 724-3009 or [twilton@columbus.gov](mailto:twilton@columbus.gov)).
- Lead abatement. Contact Erica Hudson (614- 645-6739 or [ejhudson@columbus.gov](mailto:ejhudson@columbus.gov)).

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



## LEGAL NOTICE OPERATION: FIX IT – ROOF UPGRADES FOR CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL PHASE II

Sealed bids for the above-referenced project will be received by the **BOARD OF EDUCATION**, City School District of Columbus, Ohio,

Office of Capital Improvements, 889 E. 17th Ave, Columbus OH 43211, until Friday, August 21, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. More information can be found on the District's web site at <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/rfp>. The plans and specifications are on file with Franklin Imaging.



"Attention City of Columbus/  
DOT/SBA Certified MBE/  
WBE"

Kokosing Industrial, Inc. is preparing bids for the Jackson Pike WWTP Facilities and Equipment Upgrade for Whittier Street Storm Tanks project in Columbus, Ohio which bids August 19, 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: **Trucking, Asphalt Paving, Lawns, Grasses, Landscaping, Concrete Paving, Reinforcing Steel, Caulking, Roofing, Painting, Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical, Instrumentation and Controls**. Bidding documents can be examined online by emailing Sonja Nichols at [snichols@kokosing.biz](mailto:snichols@kokosing.biz) for the link. Please have your quote to Steve Ehret by 12:00 PM August 18, 2020: e-mail [snichols@kokosing.biz](mailto:snichols@kokosing.biz) or Fax 614-212-5711.

"Kokosing Industrial is an equal opportunity employer."



**BUILDING CRAFTS, INC.**  
Contractors | Engineers

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

DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **City of Harrison (OH) WTP Water Softening Improvements** in Harrison, OH which bids on **August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**. Items of work to be subcontracted or supplied include, but are not limited to the following: demolition, concrete repair, saw cutting/coring, ready-mix concrete, reinforcing steel supply/erection, precast roof planks, masonry, miscellaneous metals, FRP materials, roofing, caulking and sealants, doors and windows, painting, signage, metal building systems, sprinkler system, fencing, seeding, paving, instrumentation & controls, process piping, plumbing, HVAC, and electrical. Bidding documents can be obtained at 11353 Reed Hartman Highway, Suite 500, Cincinnati, Ohio 45241 or by calling **Ben Call at (859) 781-9500**. Submit quotes by 8 AM on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020, by email to [estimating@buildingcrafts.com](mailto:estimating@buildingcrafts.com) or by fax at (859) 781-9505. All bids should include a completed Form 6100-3 DBE Subcontractor Performance Form.

## Register and Vote

# bid opportunities

To post a bid notice, call 614-522-9122 or email [news@ohiombe.com](mailto:news@ohiombe.com)



## 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 10 Contract** – 4 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, August 14, 2020 at 1:00 PM at the following location: <https://meet.google.com/fsw-yruj-hbw>. To join by phone or app use the following: +1 904-425-8494 PIN: 746 896 890#

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](mailto: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, September 3, 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](mailto:gregoryl@aecmep.com).



## LEGAL NOTICE OPERATION: FIX IT – FIRE ALARM UPGRADES – COLUMBUS GIFTED ACADEMY AT EVERETT & COLUMBUS CITY PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Sealed bids for the above-referenced project will be received by the **BOARD OF EDUCATION**, City School District of Columbus, Ohio, Office of

Capital Improvements, 889 E. 17th Ave, Columbus OH 43211, until Friday, September 4, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. More information can be found on the District's web site at <http://www.columbus.k12.oh.us/rfp>. The plans and specifications are on file with Franklin Imaging.



## INVITATION FOR BIDS

Sealed bid proposals will be received by the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority at 100 West Cedar Street, Akron, Ohio 44307 until **2:00 p.m.** local time on **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020** at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

### FIRE ALARM SYSTEM REPLACEMENT AND RELATED WORK at SAFERSTEIN TOWERS 1 525 DIAGONAL ROAD, AKRON, OHIO 44320

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](mailto: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](http://www.seblueprint.com)

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held by the Housing Authority at Saferstein Towers 1, 525 Diagonal Road, Akron, Ohio 44320, on **MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2020 at 2:00 P.M.**

View full bid notice at <https://ohiombe.com/archives/15386>



*Don't give up - our country needs you now more than ever. This is a pivotal moment in the history of our country: Our ideals are at stake, and we all have to fight for who we are. We are all, and should be treated as, equals, but the disparity in terms of income and inequality, for women and women of color, is significant.* — Senator Kamala Harris



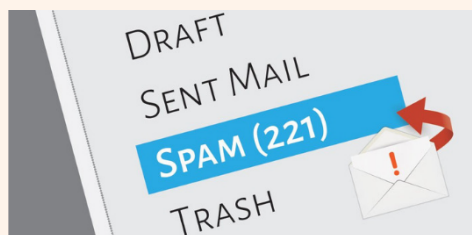
# Looking for bid notices?

## WE GOT BIDS!



OHIOMBE

## NOT GETTING OHIOMBE IN YOUR INBOX? CHECK YOUR SPAM!



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update.

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Office: 740-791-4070

Cell: 614-562-8409

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### 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](http://OHBDC.eventbrite.com) for the upcoming class schedule.

# Be Black Buy Black Think Black

and everything else will take care of itself!

- Marcus Garvey





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Web: eblake.WeAreLegalShield.com



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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 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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www.OhioMBE.com

# Ohio Diversity Network



OHBDC.org  
Ohio Business Development Center

# OBDC

## CERTIFICATION SATURDAY

### ONLINE

## 8/22

10:30 am to  
11:30 am

[OHBDCC.eventbrite.com](https://OHBDCC.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](https://OhioDiversityNetwork.com)?

Email: [news@ohiombe.com](mailto:news@ohiombe.com)  
for login information

*OhioDiversityNetwork.com is  
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THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**  
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

OFFICE OF DIVERSITY  
AND INCLUSION



### Need a meeting with Central Ohio's Top Organizations?

**OHIOMBE VIRTUAL  
PROCUREMENT FAIR**

August 19, 2020

The following organizations are  
attending:

- City of Columbus (Purchasing Dept.  
and Office of Diversity & Inclusion)
- CMHA
- Elford Construction
- Franklin County Board of  
Commissioners
- Ohio State Medical Center

Small business owners get  
15 minutes appointments to  
meet 1-on-1

[OhioMBEProcurementFairs.com](https://OhioMBEProcurementFairs.com)

**#BLACKLIVESMATTER**

**Breonna Taylor**



2020

**MBE Ohio**

*Virtual*

**Awards**

10-28-2020