Ohio's Largest Black-owned Business Newspaper

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



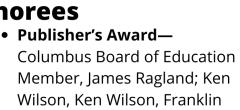
Small & Youth Business Conference

Recognizing Ohio's Top MBE, FBE, Veteran, Family Businesses and their advocates

OhioMBEAwards.com

2020 Honorees

- Economic Empowerment Award—Ohio Bankers League, City of Columbus Office of Diversity and Inclusion and Park National Bank
- Frank W. Watson Advocacy Award—Jill Nagy-Reynolds and Attorney Ambrose Moses
- Member, James Ragland; Ken Wilson, Ken Wilson, Franklin County
- Legends Awards—
- Cornelius Green and Dennis Hopson













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.

Columbus City Council Initiative Awarded \$500,000 in National Competition

Opportunity Port will increase access to justice while removing barriers to employment and housing

[Columbus, OH] Opportunity Port, an initiative of the office of Columbus City Councilmember Rob Dorans, the Legal Aid Society of Columbus, and Smart Columbus, has been awarded \$500,000 to scale a mobile-friendly website that helps Franklin County residents seal eligible criminal records.

The Alliance for the American Dream competition is sponsored by The Ohio State University in partnership with Schmidt Futures. The competition requires teams to develop concepts that will raise the net incomes of 10,000 local, middle-class households by 10 percent by 2022.

"The middle class is where families cement an economically secure life for themselves, but a criminal record significantly hinders a person's potential to prosper," said Councilmember <u>Dorans</u>. "Many of the folks I've served as a pro bono legal attorney have missed out on opportunities simply because of a past mistake. When I joined Council last year, I made record sealing a top priority."



Councilmember Rob Dorans

Record sealing is a legal mechanism that allows justice involved people to apply to have their criminal records removed from public view. Research from the University of Michigan published in March 2019 shows that while record sealing improves earnings and lowers the chances of rearrest, fewer than 7 percent of those eligible for record sealing had applied. Franklin County record sealing rates are also low; in 2019, approximately 10,000 people were eligible for record sealing, but fewer than 2,000 applied.

The total number of Americans with criminal records is almost equal to the number of Americans with a four-year degree, but while college degrees open doors, criminal records make vital resources inaccessible. According to the NAACP, almost half of all black males in America are arrested by the age of 23. The ubiquity of public records and their use as selection criteria for everything from housing to jobs exacerbate racial inequality through systemic racism.

"Opportunity Port is an innovative tool that will allow us to directly impact one of the root causes of racial inequity that exists within our criminal justice system," said Councilmember Shayla Favor, Chair of the Criminal Justice and Judiciary Committee. "By providing members of our community with the ability to seal a damaging criminal record, we are also providing them with

See Port on page 5

Ohio General Election Inforation

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

Vote! It's about white supremacy or democracy

By Ronda Watson Barber OhioMBE Publisher



Are you registered to vote? Are the folks you hang out with registered to vote? I know that you are tired of hearing about the upcoming election. Registering to vote and then casting a ballot is vital. Voting during the upcoming election season is major. Make the decision to participate. Some say THIS is the election of our lifetime. The election is about power. The folks that have the power are holding on tight and are making plans to dis-

rupt the voting process in an effort to keep it. They are not going to let go of allocating resources, reforming law enforcement, and other policies that have suppressed Black people and the "others" in the community. They want to stay on top. The republican party is working overtime to prevent and quash Black folks from voting. Why would so much energy and funding go towards this endeavor? Your vote is POWER.

The upcoming presidential election and the down-ballot is going to be a dog-fight. It's about white supremacy or democracy. The United States is experiencing social unrest over inequities. Everyone simply wants to be treated with dignity and fairness when dealing with our government and its representatives. You know that freedom thing that is outlined in the Constitution.

Folks of all races, worldwide, have been marching to declare that Black Lives Matter. We have to show we know we matter. Black folks need to demonstrate our power with our vote. Black folks have to be the first in line to vote. Black folks have to bring lunch, a lawn chair, and endure whatever tactics are placed before us to prevent us from voting. Order your absentee ballot and hand-deliver it to your county board of election. Do what you have to do to be counted. It matters. It matters for your kids and grandchildren.

Ohio has early voting. The first day to vote is Oct. 6. There is no excuse not to participate. We have to vote in overwhelming numbers to show our utter condemnation towards the racist impeached president, who lost the popular vote in 2016, and his policies.

A bunch of ancestors lost their lives defending this democracy and our right to participate. It's OUR democracy. It's our America too. Do not allow white supremacy to overtake our

Nominations are open for the 2020 OhioMBE Awards

Nominations are open for the 2020 OhioMBE Virtual Awards. The OhioMBE Awards recognizes Ohio's Top MBEs, FBEs, Family Businesses, Veteran Business, and their advocates. The sixth annual ceremony will be held on Oct. 28.

The OhioMBE Awards will be followed by a small business conference, geared towards youth.

Nominate a business at https://ohiombeawards.com/nominate-a-business/ The deadline is Sept. 30, 2020.

The following were recognized for their community work at the 2019 OhioMBE Awards:

- Frank W. Watson Advocacy Award Marleise Wicker, Franklin County Board of Commissioners; Lynnette Stevens, Ohio Department of Transportation; Terry Bolden, Ohio Department of Transportation
- Publisher's Award Joy Bivens, Franklin County Job & Family Services; Linda Parks
- Women's Health Advocate Award Dr. Janae Davis, Licking Memorial Hospital
- Media Legends Award Jerry Revish
- Hall of Fame Bobbi Bell-Barthlomew, State of Ohio and Damita Brown, City of Columbus.

The 2020 Honorees include:

- Economic Empowerment Award—Ohio Bankers League, City of Columbus Office of Diversity and Inclusion and Park National Bank
- Frank W. Watson Advocacy Award—Jill Nagy-Reynolds and Attorney Ambrose Moses
- Publisher's Award—Columbus Board of Education Member—James Ragland; Ken Wilson, Franklin County Board of Commissioners
- Legends Award—Former Ohio State University Quarterback Cornelius Green and Dennis Hopson, OSU's Leading Basketball scorer.

government by the people.

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.

ONLINE TRAINING

SEPTEMBER 22 & 29

OBDC Construction Academy



Bookkeeping for Contractors

Best practices for maintaining financial records of the business along with the tools you need to accomplish this. Business bookkeeping is required for many reasons including accurate reporting of income and expenses, tax compliance, and knowing your financial picture.

OHBDC.EVENTBRITE.COM





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

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

September 23 @ 2 pm for more information Virtual Training OHBDC.EVENTBRITE.COM





OBDC WORKSHOP

Certification 101

Need MBE, FBE, EDGE or LEDE Certification?

In this online course, we will discuss the certification process, local certifying programs and what documents to submit with you applicaiton

September 10 @ 10 am & September 24 @ 2 pm Virtual Training









FOR MORE INFORMATION OHBDC.EVENTBRITE.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



bid opportunities

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



Invitation to Bid

Sealed bid proposals will be received by the Akron Metropolitan Housing Au-

thority at 100 West Cedar Street, Akron, Ohio 44307 until 2:00 p.m. local time on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020 at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

ROOF REPLACEMENT AND RELATED WORK at MARTIN P. LAUER APARTMENTS 666 NORTH HOWARD STREET, 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

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/15510

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.



ROBERTSON CONSTRUCTION SERVICES (RCS) is a leading general contractor based in Heath, Ohio. We offer construction related services from pre-construction through construction, including general construction and design build services. We complete approximately 200 projects per year ranging from \$100,000 to \$120+ million. We are committed to consistently delivering quality projects on time which has earned us the reputation of being the premier construction service provider in our area.

- Experienced Class A CDL Truck Driver
- Concrete Finisher
- <u>Commercial Carpenters</u>

Port from page 2

a pathway out of poverty that can change the course of their life."

Record sealing is one of many criminal justice-focused initiatives spearheaded by Columbus City Council, including marijuana reform legislation passed unanimously in July 2019 that significantly lowered the penalties for possession of small amounts of marijuana.

Columbus City Council expects Opportunity Port to be available for public use by early 2021.

Keep up-to-date at OhioMBE.com



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 COLUMBUS 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.





Invitation to remove the Brick Summer COLUMBUS Kitchen/Smokehouse at the former Elam Drake Property at John Glenn

Columbus International Airport

The Columbus Regional Airport Authority values diversity and inclusion and the impact small and minority-owned firms have on the Central Ohio economy. The Columbus Regional Airport Authority invites you to access the following link: www.columbusairports.diversitycompliance.com to register to do business with us and to view new bid opportunities and results. Email BusinessDiversity@ColumbusAirports.com for questions about the Diversity Programs at Columbus Regional Airport Authority.



COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

COMMUNITY, COMMITMENT, COLLABORATION.

Legal Notice: RFP 2020-010 Branding/Digital Marketing Agency of Record

The Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking Request

for Proposal (RFP) for the procurement of Branding/Digital Marketing Agency of Record. The response deadline is Friday September 18, 2020 at 11:00AM. A pre-proposal conference is scheduled for 11:00 AM Friday, September 11, 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.

Register and Vote

bid opportunities

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



Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 307.86, 307.87, 307.92, and applicable codes of the Ohio Revised Service. Progress. Excellence. Codes (O.R.C.), public notice is hereby given that submittals will be re-

ceived by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, as indicated below: Additionally, public notice is posted online at http://purchasing.franklincountyohio.gov/.

The Board of Commissioners, Franklin County, Ohio is seeking bids for Bid Release #1A for all labor and materials to construct the Franklin County Corrections Center following the specifications and procedures in the project manual.

Bid Release # 1A includes: Bid Package #03D Concrete Foundations & Structure, Bid Package #03E Precast Concrete, and Bid Package #05C Structural Steel.

Each bid package will be a separate contract.

- Pre-bid Conference: September 10, 2020 at 2:00 PM Interested parties are to dial 773-917-3504 and enter participant passcode 398718076#
- Opening Date/Time: October 2, 2020 at 10 amFranklin County Purchasing DepartmentFranklin County Office Tower373 South High Street, 25th FloorColumbus, Ohio 43215-6315
- Bids delivered in-person: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Bidders will not be permitted to enter the Franklin County Office Tower in order to hand deliver their Bid directly to the Purchasing Department on the 25th Floor. However, Bids may be delivered in-person to a receptacle box located along the west wall of the Pavilion, 365 South High Street, Columbus, OH 43215. The Pavilion is the main entrance to the Franklin County Court House complex. (See link) https://facilities.franklincountyohio.gov/ <u>Facilities/Facilities/Pavilion</u>. There are multiple receptacle boxes in this area, so Bidders should take care to deposit their Bid in the receptacle box labeled "Franklin County Purchasing Department". The receptacle box is very similar to a postal service mail box found on street corners. It cannot accept large, rigid boxes/containers such as Fed Ex boxes, UPS boxes or other similar containers. Bids delivered in this manner must be in a sealed envelope (nonrigid) and be able to fit into the receptacle box opening.
- Estimate: \$13,494,663.00

See full notice at https://ohiombe.com/archives/15447



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, OCTOBER 8, 2020 at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

ROOF REPLACEMENT 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 https://ohiombe.com/archives/15519



National Preparedness Month: Evaluate Your Disaster Plan

Small business owners are natural planners. You know exactly how you want your business to look six months or a year from now, and you work hard toward your goals every day. Unfortunately, sometimes things may happen that are out of your control – but there are ways you can prepare your business for disasters.

<u>National Preparedness Month</u> is recognized each September to promote disaster preparedness for communities, individuals, and businesses. This year's theme is, "Disasters Don't Wait. Make your Plan Today."

Each week will focus on a different aspect of disaster planning. The weekly themes can help guide you as you take stock of and improve your current approach to disaster preparedness.

During National Preparedness Month, SBA will host a live webinar on preparing for severe weather, future COVID-19 interruptions, and other disasters on **Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 2 p.m. EDT**. In addition to presentations by experts at the <u>Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety</u> and the <u>Insurance Information Institute</u>, two small business owners will share their stories of how they prepared for and successfully recovered from devastating disasters.

Register for the webinar here: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/992418504905457168

Make a Plan

The first step is to determine which types of disasters are common in your region or your industry and establish a plan for what you will do before, during, and after them. If you are at your business location during a disaster, when and how you should evacuate or shelter in place will depend on the disaster type. You can learn more about how to prepare for and respond to specific disaster types on our website. Individuals and businesses should also update their existing disaster plans to reflect the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) safety recommendations for COVID-19.

Regardless of the disaster type, you should always know how you will communicate with your employees and other key stakeholders before and during an emergency. Make sure you have up-to-date contact information available remotely for your staff. You may even consider two-way radios or an alert notification system (ANS) if the phone lines are down after a disaster.

Assemble a Kit

Next, gather items you may need on-site during a disaster. It's essential to have enough supplies in your emergency kit to last you a few days. The essentials will include flashlights, a battery-powered radio, a first-aid kit, non-perishable foods, medicines, and bottled water. The CDC recommends including face masks and sanitizers in your emergency kit to help protect yourself and staff members from COVID-19. Finally, you may also want to keep a backup generator at your business location in case of power outages.

Prepare for Disasters

Why you should get your business certified?

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

- 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.

Check with your insurance provider before a disaster strikes to understand what is covered and follow up with policy upgrades.

Protect your business by making sure important data is routinely backed up and accessible off-site if your computers are damaged during a disaster.

Depending on the disaster type, there are also ways to fortify your physical business location to reduce damage and protect your staff. For example, in preparation for an earthquake, you will want to bolt furniture to walls, install safety latches for cabinet doors, install fire sprinklers, and use hook and loop fasteners to keep computers and other equipment from falling. Visit the SBA's emergency preparedness site for more tips and checklists targeting specific disasters. Learn more about disaster preparations here.

Teach Youth About Preparedness

This National Preparedness Month theme may not traditionally apply to small businesses. Still, it is an important reminder to ensure that your family and home are just as prepared for disasters as your business. You should have all the same precautions in place to protect your family and personal property from disasters – from homeowners or renter's insurance to a disaster kit and emergency plans. Make sure everyone in your household – children included – understands what you will do in the event of a disaster.

Source: sba.gov



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+

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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 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?

Support Black Businesses



Ohio Diversity Network

Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 12:00am SBA Small Business Week Virtual Conference

Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 2:00pm OBDC – OBDC Construction Academy: Bookkeeping for Contractors

Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 2:00pm OBDC – How to Write a Great Capability Statement

Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 10:00am SBA – Starting a Business During Covid-19

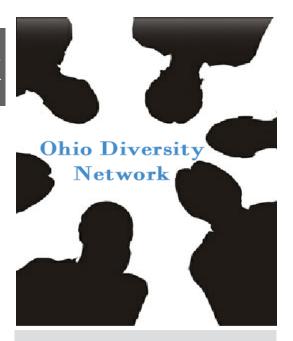
Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 2:00pm SBA – Webinar: Take Your Business Global with help from SBA

Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 6:00pm OBDC: Certification 101

Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 2:00pm OBDC – OBDC Construction Academy: Bookkeeping for Contractors

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 8:30am
City of Columbus Office of Diversity & Inclusion:
Govern Conference

Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 1:00pm 2020 OhioMBE Virtual Awards



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



#BLACKLIVESMATTER Breonna Taylor



Congratulations to the 2020 Top MBE, FBE, Family and Veteran Business Nominees

Noni Banks The Diva Movement

Sheena Fain Guided Growth Consulting LLC

Bill Balderaz Futurety

Brenda Spencer Spencer 4Higher Media, LLC

Serbennia Davis SerbSewn Fashions

The deadline to nominate a business is Sept. 30. https://ohiombeawards.com/nominate-a-business/