

Ohio's Largest Black-owned Business Newspaper

FREE



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History**

Small Business is Good Business



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Ronda Watson Barber,
Editor-in-Chief & Publisher
www.OhioMBE.com
rbarber@ohiombe.com

P.O. Box 533
Granville, OH 43023
912-290-2112

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.

The Commission On Black Girls Launches Television Miniseries

The Commission on Black Girls and its founder, Columbus City Councilmember Priscilla R. Tyson, proudly announces the pilot for “BLACK GIRLS SOAR – Crowned to Succeed” the miniseries.

Hosted by Alissa Henry, broadcast journalist and host of the Ohio Lottery's The Cash Explosion Show, the program is designed to inspire, motivate, amplify their stories of Black girls. More importantly, this pilot series is intended to support Black girls as they endure the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The themes for the four episodes were developed based on the needs and feedback of Black girls:

- Episode #1: Black Girls Check-In: COVID Edition
- Episode #2: Black Girls' Self-Care Matters
- Episode #3: It's Time to Delete Cyberbullying
- Episode #4: Black Girls SOAR! (Season Finale)



The initial four-part series debuts on Tuesday, February 2, 2021, at 8pm on the following CTV channels and YouTube.

- Channel 1024 on Spectrum
- Channel 3 on WOW!
- Channel 99 on AT&T
- Channel WCIZ 22.4 (local broadcast)

See Commission on page 8



#bidnotices

publisher's note

Happy Black History Month



Happy Black History Month!
By Ronda Watson Barber
Publisher

Happy Black History Month! I plan to celebrate the accomplishments of Black folks ALL month long. Check out our social media sites to join in the celebration.

As we revel in our AWESOMENESS and ability to survive, let's continue to pledge to Buy Black during February 2021. OhioMBE is embarking

on another year of advocacy, our goal is to promote economic development in the Black community.

Black people NEED to purchase goods and services from Black businesses. Black churches need to purchase goods and services from Black businesses. Black fraternities and sororities need to purchase good and services from Black businesses. Business owned businesses need to purchases good and services from Black businesses. Said it loud—Buy Black, Be Proud! Be Black History!

We have to grow Black companies as legacies for our children and grandchildren. We have to grow Black businesses so our children and community see role-models. We are more than athletes and entertainers. Support a Black-owned business or two this month. Start a Black-owned business this month. Be Black History!

One of my favorite poems by Langston Hughes is Democracy
Democracy

Democracy will not come Today, this year Nor ever Through compromise and fear.

I have as much right As the other fellow has To stand On my two feet And own the land.

I tire so of hearing people say, Let things take their course. Tomorrow is another day. I do not need my freedom when I'm dead. I cannot live on tomorrow's bread.

Freedom Is a strong seed
Planted In a great need.

See Publisher on page 9

moore views

Its time we demand Social Justice & Equity In the Ohio Medical Cannabis industry

In 1971, before I was even born, a government-led initiative coined “The War on Drugs” was enacted to stop illegal drug use, distribution and trade, by dramatically increasing prison sentences for both drug dealers and users. That movement is still evolving today.



Gerald Moore Jr.

This war, though, became more about race than actual drugs, and the statistics and current opioid epidemic prove it.

Today, the Drug Policy Alliance, which advocates for an end to the War on Drugs, estimates that the United States spends \$51 billion annually on these initiatives. By 2010, drug offenders in federal prisons increased to 500,000 per year — up from 41,000 in 1985.

According to civil rights lawyer, advocate and author Michelle Alexander, drug-related charges accounted for more than half the rise in state prisoners between 1985 and 2000. 31 million people have been arrested on drug-related charges — approximately 1 in 10 Americans.

Because of the War on Drugs, many Black communities have been destroyed. Removing parents and children from homes caused a domino effect that has crippled our Black economy.

It is now 2021, and medical marijuana has been legal for five years, with the first legal sale happening in 2019. The problem with the current legalization of the cannabis industry is that there has been very little effort by states and local governments to right the wrongs of the social injustices that have plagued our communities for decades.

As a medical cannabis patient, advocate, and entrepreneur, it is nearly impossible to partake in the legal market because of the cost of licenses and lack of social equity

See Moore on page 10



Looking for business news?

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New City of Columbus Vendor Portal is now online

The new City of Columbus Vendor Portal is now online. The new cloud-based system offers many new tools to track bids, payments, and purchase orders. While you will continue to receive notifications of RFQs, **you must register your email with the new site to respond to bidding opportunities.**

You can find the portal here: <https://columbusvendorservices.powerappsportals.com/>

To register, go to “Sign Up” at the top of the page and enter your work email and taxpayer ID. All other information that you used to register with the City in the previous system will be in the new portal. For a video that explains how to create your new account and other resources, go to Help at the top of the page.

You are encouraged to register using your work email address. Google and Yahoo email accounts are no longer required to use the portal. For more information on doing business with the City of Columbus, go here: <https://www.columbus.gov/finance/Purchasing-Office/>

Questions? Please contact vendorservices@columbus.gov

The 912 Group is pleased to announce the launch of OhioContractorConnection.com. The website and mobile app is a collection of Ohio’s top small businesses, resource service providers, and business news. There is a focus on construction contractors.

“A lot of people are looking to do business with Black-owned companies. The OhioContractorConnection.com is a vehicle to do that,” said The 912 Group owner, Ronda Watson Barber. “I am excited to again provide access to small businesses to contracting opportunities, particularly Black owned businesses.”

OhioContractorConnection.com will be available on GooglePlay soon. Small businesses are encouraged to list their businesses.



Advertise your business HERE!



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.

Police Officer – City of Worthington, Ohio

Looking for a challenging public service career in a vibrant central Ohio community?

The City of Worthington will accept test scores for Police Officer through March 31, 2021. Interested candidates must complete testing through the National Testing Network to be considered in the City of Worthington’s 2021 Police Officer hiring process. The City will pull the top 10-15 scores submitted by February 15, for initial review and consideration but will continue to accept and review test scores through March 31, 2021. All Candidates are asked to complete the NTN Personal History Questionnaire (PHQ).



The City of Worthington does not require a Physical Abilities Test as part of this hiring process, however, any candidates that will need to go through a law enforcement academy will be subject to the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) minimum physical standards.

More information at www.worthington.org



Colgate Operator Technician



jobs.colgate.com



Colgate Maintenance Tech

These positions will learn to operate and/or troubleshoot machinery in our Cambridge Ohio Plant. Operator Tech 1 at \$19.90 per hour and our Maint Tech 1 at \$29.02 per hour. Growth advancements are possible and our benefits are excellent. Relocation is available for qualified candidates. Please click the link to learn more about these roles and apply. Scan the codes for more info.

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 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>.



LEGAL NOTICE

OPERATION: FIX IT – RESTROOM UPGRADES – LINDBERGH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MOLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WESTGATE ALTERNATIVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, VALLEYVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, BUCKEYE MIDDLE SCHOOL, WESTMOOR MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND MARION-FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL

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, February 12, 2021 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.



LEGAL NOTICE

OPERATION: FIX IT – FIRE ALARM UPGRADES – MIFFLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Electronic 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, February 12, 2021 at 2:00 p.m – **Via Public Purchase**. 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.



OhioContractorConnection.com

bid opportunities

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



LEGAL NOTICE

OPERATION: FIX IT – SECURITY UPGRADES – HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, WEST BROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, INDIAN SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL & WINTERSET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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, February 5, 2021 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.



BUILDING CRAFTS, INC.
Contractors | Engineers

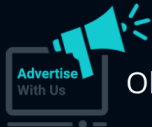
Building Crafts, Inc., an equal opportunity employer, is soliciting bids from INDOT certified

DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Sellersburg WWTP Rehab & Expansion** in Sellersburg, IN which bids on **February 26th, 2021**. Items of work to be subcontracted or supplied include, but are not limited to the following: demolition, ready-mix concrete, concrete repair, rebar material, rebar labor, precast concrete, curing, sealing, mortaring, masonry, miscellaneous metals, structural steel, metal joists, cold-formed metal framing, rough carpentry, wood trusses, thermal and moisture protection, damp-proofing, caulking, sectional overhead doors, hollow metal doors/frames, painting, gypsum board, acoustic ceilings, signage, fire extinguishers, toilet room accessories, painted steel laboratory casework, metal building systems, plumbing, HVAC, electrical, earthwork, clearing, erosion & sedimentation control, asphalt, fencing, seeding, landscaping, aggregate, steel sheet piles, process piping, valves, process integration, process & handling equipment, bridge crane, wastewater equipment. Bidding documents can be obtained through www.lynnimaging.com or by calling **Ben Call at (859) 781-9500**. Submit quotes by 8 AM on February 25th, 2020, by email to estimating@buildingcrafts.com or by fax at (859) 781-9505.

All bids should include a completed Form 6100-3 DBE Subcontractor Performance Form.

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No man knows what he can do until he tries ~ Carter G. Woodson



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Check out our Buy Black Collection at ShopLegacyGifts.com

City Awarded Federal Money for Rental Assistance

The City of Columbus and Council recently announced \$26.8 million in federal funding designated to help families in need of rent and utility assistance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recognizing that the lowest income households are at the greatest risk for long-term housing instability, 60% of the funding will be targeted to households at 50% AMI and below or \$42,100 for a family of four. The remaining 40% will be available to households at 80% AMI or \$67,360 for a family of four.

“Community partnerships have been essential to getting rental assistance funding out to Columbus families in critical need since last summer,” said Councilmember [Shayla Favor](#). “These additional dollars, along with our strong housing stability network, will go a significant way towards stabilizing even more families and helping them avoid a devastating eviction.”

The City will immediately distribute \$10 million to IMPACT Community Action Agency to continue the HOPE Fund program. Additionally, Columbus will set aside \$3 million for CelebrateOne. CelebrateOne will distribute the emergency rental assistance funds to community partners who will provide rental and utility assistance to families at high risk of infant mortality and maternal health complications.

See Rental on page 10

Commission from page 2

- YouTube - City of Columbus

The Commission on Black Girls (CoBG), was charged with understanding the quality of life of Black Girls in Central Ohio in order to share their story with the entire community, along with the resulting insights, recommendations and actions. A research study was conducted and A Report on the Quality of Life of Black Girls in Columbus, Ohio was published and presented on July 30, 2020. The overarching recommendation from the report was to identify a permanent entity for the Commission. This recommendation has been accomplished and the Commission is transitioning to The Center for Healthy Families.

We're Open

CITY OF COLUMBUS PLANROOM

1393 E. Broad Street - Suite 104

OHBDC.org

614-645-5663 (office) 912-290-2112 (office cell)

Mondays & Wednesdays from 1 to 4 pm

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May we send you some information? Your email address? Phone number? Send me an email: chuck_bolinds@hotmail.com or our **216.479.0290** Cleveland office number. **Please contact us!**

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.

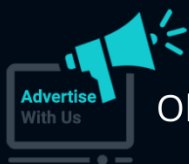
Publisher from page 3

I live here, too.
I want freedom Just as you.

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.

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among cannabis business ownership in cultivators, processors, or dispensaries.

According to Marijuana Business Daily, the United States cannabis industry's economic impact could hit \$130 billion by 2024. This means the industry is producing jobs and revenue for states and cities nationwide, that our communities are still locked out of — forcing individuals to still partake in illicit legacy markets. And with legalization, big companies and people with money, but not the necessary information, are investing in the industry, because they see dollar signs, but fail to seek to righting the injustices our communities have faced because of this drug.

In order to fix this problem, our community must rally around our brothers and sisters that have been wrongfully prosecuted and imprisoned for cannabis, and we must work to get their records expunged immediately. Next, these individuals must be given a fair and equitable shot to get involved in the industry. Finally, we need to push the Ohio legislature to provide a comprehensive social equity and social justice initiative for the Black community, so that we can restore our communities and begin to create equity ownership and opportunities in the cannabis industry, which will help our economy, by creating ownership, jobs, and providing a holistic medicine that will assist overall community health and wellbeing.

Gerald can be reached at GMoore@OhioMBE.com

Editor's Note—We are excited to have Gerald Moore, Jr., join our team. His monthly column will offer views and insights from a Black millennial. Gerald is a husband, father, motivational speaker, former standout athlete and entrepreneur.



Rental from page 8

"We know the importance of stable housing for families," said Mayor Andrew J. Ginther. "This funding will allow for more of neighbors to stay in their homes during this unprecedented time."

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, Instagram and LinkedIn Pages.

  We, the successors of a country and a time where a skinny black girl descended from slaves and raised by a single mother can dream of becoming president, only to find herself reciting for one. ~ Amanda Gorman

OHIOMBE

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Don't miss out on our weekly update.

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WE GOT BIDS!

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OhioMBE.com/bid-opportunities

BUY BLACK

  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

Ohio Diversity Network

Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 11:00am
[Cleveland SBA – SBA Basics, Overview & Programs](#)

Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 12:00pm
[Cleveland SBA: Webinar – Export 101 Learn the Basics from Three Export Professionals](#)

Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 11:00am
[Cleveland SBA – Lender Enrichment: All About SBA Debt Refinance](#)

Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 11:00am
[OBDC – How to Write a Capability Statement](#)

Friday, February 12, 2021 at 10:00am
[Cleveland SBA – Introduction to Selling to the Federal Government](#)

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 11:00am
[OBDC – Certification 101](#)



Hosting a business event?

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post it on
OhioDiversityNetwork.com?

Email: news@ohiombe.com
for login information

*OhioDiversityNetwork.com is
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COLUMBUS
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AND INCLUSION



OBDC WORKSHOP

How to market your certification

You are certified! (Congratulations)
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DBE, EDGE or LEDE certification

- February 24 @ 11 am
- March 23 @ 2 pm

OHBDC.eventbrite.com



*If we merge mercy with might, and might with
right, then love becomes our legacy and change
our children's birthright. ~ Amanda Gorman*

#BLACKLIVESMATTER

Tamir Rice

Breonna Taylor

Casey Goodson Jr.

Andre Hill