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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

Meet Licking County Commissioner Candidate: DeVeonne Gregory



Currently I serve as the Chief Compliance Director of the National Center for Urban Solutions. My responsibilities as the Chief Compliance Director, consist of conducting risk management analysis, managing million-dollar budgets, and meeting strategic goals. Developing partnerships and relationships that aide in resolutions for the needs of our citizens and the community are her my top priorities.

When I win this campaign and in order to become one of the leading counties in affordable housing, educational stability and workforce development, as your County Commissioner, some of my goals are to:

1. Bridge the gap between the community and elected officials.
2. Create a more accessible transportation system
3. Create safe roads for our families
4. Increase access to minority and small businesses
5. Decrease homelessness
6. Provide more resources and funding for schools and organizations that address mental health
7. Increase homeownership
8. Collaborate with the agencies who are doing the work and who make decisions that affect our county

Election Day is May 3 - VOTE!



The Ohio Business Development Center Construction Academy May training sessions

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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.

OBDC Construction Academy
Enhance your skills

- Basic Estimating - May 18
- Drug-Free Workplace - May 24
- Intro to Mechanic Liens - May 26

OHBDC.eventbrite.com

Got your Black Card?



The Ohio Black Card and its mobile app have the mission of fostering business between Black-owned companies.

The mobile app features the electronic copy of OhioMBE, a business directory, a list of contracting opportunities, a collection of upcoming events, business resources and a bevy of vendors who will offer a discount when presented with the Ohio Black Card.

The Ohio Black Card mobile app is available on Google Play and The App Store.

Don't have THE Ohio Black Card? Visit BlackCardOhio.com and get yours. The card is FREE. If you are a business who wants to be an Ohio Black Card vendor, please email news@ohiombe.com

Stop the Violence!

publisher's note

By Ronda Watson Barber
OhioMBE Publisher

I had a horrible encounter with the Columbus City Schools Capital Improvements Karen recently. I called the office to notify and inquire about an error on a construction document. CI Karen went off. It was reminiscent of the recent US Supreme Court confirmation hearings for Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson. She was yelling and interrupting me. She was rude and unprofessional. CI Karen was not a good ambassador for the district. When I could finally get a word in, I responded, "Who do you think you are talking to? I am a community member calling on behalf of a LEDE vendor."

I requested to speak with her boss. He was not available. I asked to speak with the demoted COO who still oversees the department. He returned my call. He listened to the issue and told me to contact her immediate supervisor. I penned him a letter and cc'd the entire elected board. The board president did respond back and asked me to keep her in the loop.

I received a note from CI Karen's supervisor. He attempted to blame me. He only acknowledged my complaint about her actions at the bottom of the email. He indicated this was a learning experience and he would speak with her. I didn't get an apology or anything. Their actions are entirely unacceptable, mainly when the drawings are incorrect. The error was verified by her boss and the project was rebid. What grown woman needs to be told how to act in 2022, particularly with Black people in an urban school district?

If a Black woman had acted combatively and unprofessionally with a white woman, I wonder if the response would be the same? My life experience says no. Swift and immediate action would be taken. As a professional Black woman, I am accustomed to micro-aggressions from white people. It is not acceptable. I will call you on it.

I have stated to both President Adair and CI Karen's immediate supervisor that my bad experiences with white CCS staff aren't uncommon. I find more often than not that many white employees think that because they work for a poor urban school district populated primarily by Black children, they can act, say and do whatever they want. They don't believe they have to work professionally because of the population and community they serve. There doesn't appear to be any accountability for their actions. They behave poorly towards the district's constituents and then take their paychecks and other district riches home to other communities. Poor Black children

(Continued on page 7)

The Columbus NAACP Economic Development Committee Action Alert:

Last month, letters were mailed to several financial institutions requesting information regarding their policies and procedures related to Black Consumers. Only one institution replied; others requested private closed-door meetings with President Watson. 11 meeting requests were declined! President Watson asked them to respond to the letter!

Join the Columbus NAACP by sending a letter to your financial institution, letting them know that ignoring the request of the NAACP will not be tolerated. Please read the entire action alert and the original letter., then, use the enclosed sample letter to voice your concerns to your lending institution.

Your Columbus NAACP has been fighting for equality in the financial area...join the fight by sending your letter today!

A sample letter is available at <https://ohiombe.com/archives/18743>



Under the direction of President Nana Watson, the Economic Development Committee sent letters to financial institutions regarding policies relating to Black Consumers in lending, community investment, and employment practices.

The NAACP is committed to promoting racial equity, economic development, and empowerment within the Black community, including the Black-Owned Businesses and Financial Capability and Stability.

Of the 13, only one replied; Fifth – Third Bank. They have received an initial rating of "C" for Compliant. We will review their documents and grade them accordingly.

The following 12 received a rating of "F" for Failure to Respond.

- Bank of America NA
- First Commonwealth Bank
- First Financial Bank NA
- First Merchant Bank NA
- Heartland Bank
- Huntington National Bank
- JPMorgan Chase Bank NA
- Key Bank
- Ohio State Bank
- PNC
- US Bank NA
- WesBanco Bank

We know that racism and the systematic barriers that financial institutions have placed on the Black Community have been in practice for centuries.

Your Columbus NAACP asks you to drop off a letter at your bank or mail one to your bank's headquarters.

Join us and send a message to the banks letting them know that the NAACP will not tolerate them ignoring our request!

We have attached a copy of the original letter and a sample letter for you to personalize.



We came to see that, in the long run, it is more honorable to walk in dignity than ride in humiliation ~ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

bid opportunities

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



COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

COMMUNITY. COMMITMENT. COLLABORATION.

Legal Notice: RFP 2022-005
Linden Service Coordinator

The Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority is seeking Request for Proposal (RFP) for the procurement of Linden Service Coordinator. The response deadline is Wednesday May 11, 2022 @ 12:00pm. A pre-proposal conference is scheduled for Monday May 2, 2022 @ 2:00pm and will be held on Zoom. The 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.



INVITATION TO BID B22010

The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority at 100 West Cedar Street, Akron, Ohio 44307 will receive sealed bids until **2:00 p.m.** local time on **Thursday May 19, 2022** at which time and place bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

Front Door Renovation and Related Work at Nimmer Apartments, 1600 Brittain Road, Akron Ohio 44310

Specifications can be purchased at SE Blueprint, 540 South Main Street, Suite 211, Akron, Ohio 44311. (330) 376-1689 or at seblue@seblueprint.com

To be considered Bids must be received by AMHA no later than 2:00 p.m. (local time) on Thursday May 19, 2022. Questions contact Carla Horton, Contracting Officer at 330-376-7128.

Persons with disabilities needing assistance are asked to contact AMHA's ADA Coordinator, 100 West Cedar Street, Akron Ohio 44307, 330-762-9631 or Ohio Relay at 800-750-0750 at least seven (7) days in advance.

Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
Debbie Barry
Interim Executive Director



Columbus City Schools seeks LEDE vendors

How do I become a Local Economically Disadvantaged Enterprise (LEDE) Vendor with Columbus City Schools?

Your Columbus City Schools Vendor Number allows you to conduct business with the School District.

You must first complete the CCS Vendor Application by visiting: www.columbus.k12.oh.us.

Click VENDORS and complete the On-Line Vendor Registration and provide all pertinent information or by contacting the district's Purchasing Department at: (614) 365-5820.

Once registered as a Vendor with Purchasing, please complete the Local Economically Disadvantaged Enterprise (LEDE) Vendor Affidavit also on the district's website. This form must be Signed and Notarized. You can also contact the Outreach Office at: (614) 365-8732 or outreachservices@columbus.k12.oh.us



LEGAL NOTICE SPRUCE RUN NATURE CENTER – ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES

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, April 29, 2022 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.

OhioMBE.com



**They Have Money for War But
Can't Feed the Poor ~ Tupac Shakur**

bid opportunities

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



INVITATION TO BID B22008

The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority at 100 West Cedar Street, Akron, Ohio 44307, will receive sealed bids until 2:00 p.m. local time on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at which time and place bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

Sanitary and Storm Sewer Flushing and Related Work at Various AMHA LHA Locations within Summit County, Ohio

Specifications can be purchased at SE Blueprint, 540 W. Main Street, Suite 211, Akron, Ohio 44311. (330)376-7689 or at seblue@seblueprint.com

To be considered Bids must be received by AMHA no later than 2:00 p.m. (local time) on Tuesday, May 10, 2022.

Questions, Contact Michele Kindler, Assistant Contracting Officer at 330-376-7792.

Persons with disabilities needing assistance are asked to contact AMHA'S ADA Coordinator, 100 West Cedar Street, Akron Ohio 44307, 330-762-9631 or Ohio Relay at 800-750-0750 at least seven (7) days in advance.

Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
Debbie Barry
Interim Executive Director



INVITATION TO BID B2009

The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority at 100 West Cedar Street, Akron, Ohio 44307 will receive sealed bids until **2:00 p.m.** local time on **Wednesday May 25, 2022** at which time and place bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for:

Elevator Modernization and Related Work at Nimmer, Belcher South, Sutliff & Fowler

Specifications can be purchased at SE Blueprint, 540 South Main Street, Suite 211, Akron, Ohio 44311. (330) 376-1689 or at seblue@seblueprint.com

To be considered Bids must be received by AMHA no later than 2:00 p.m. (local time) on Wednesday May 25, 2022. Questions contact Carla Horton, Contracting Officer at 330-376-7128.

Persons with disabilities needing assistance are asked to contact AMHA's ADA Coordinator, 100 West Cedar Street, Akron Ohio 44307, 330-762-9631 or Ohio Relay at 800-750-0750 at least seven (7) days in advance.

Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
Debbie Barry
Interim Executive Director



Holloway, Henderson & Martin, LLC

Cathy R. Holloway
President/Owner

EDGE, FBE, LEDE, DBE, SBE, WBE CERTIFIED

1612 Old Leonard Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43219

(614) 302-2610
Cathy@hbmohio.com

Keep up-to-date at OhioMBE.com
or the Ohio Black Card mobile app

Stop the Violence!

Support Black Businesses

www.OhioMBE.com

bid opportunities

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



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority is requesting proposals for Electrical Services for Miscellaneous Repairs and/or Interior/Exterior Electrical Services and Related Work at Various AMHA Buildings, Apartments and Single Family Homes.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. at 100 West Cedar Street, Akron, Ohio 44307.

Those interested in submitting a proposal for the aforementioned work may obtain the instructions/information package by contacting SE Blueprint, 540 South Main Street, Suite 211, Akron, Ohio 44311. (330) 376-1689 seblue@seblueprint.com

Proposals, to be considered, must be submitted in accordance with the requirements of the RFP and received by AMHA no later than 4:00 p.m. (local time) on **Tuesday, May 17, 2022.**

Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority
Debbie Barry
Interim Executive Director



COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY
COMMUNITY. COMMITMENT. COLLABORATION.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDDERS

Request for Qualifications, Construction Manager at Risk will be received by the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium Via E-Mail, until Thursday May 12, 2022 at 5:00 P.M., Eastern Standard Time for the following project:

Columbus Zoo and Aquarium North America Region Plan

The Request for Qualifications documents may be reviewed without charge by emailing Karen.schenk@columbuszoo.org. All requests must be followed up with a phone call to confirm email has been received, call (614) 724-3593.

The North America Region Plan Phase 1 will consist of approximately \$21 million dollars in estimated construction in renovations to the existing North America Region at the Zoo.

Under Phase 1, the Site Construction package will consist of site clearing work, building demolition, and new utility work. Construction documents are scheduled for completion with permitting and bidding in early November 2022.

The Exhibit and Building package will consist of construction of new animal habitats with new animal holding facilities, life support building with water filtration systems for pools, thematic rockwork construction, landscape and irrigation with construction documents scheduled for completion for permitting and bidding in early February 2023.

Future phases of North America are yet to be defined and are not included in the scope of work for this budget. Future work will be bid as separate projects.

The Construction Manager at Risk will be part of the overall Design Team consisting of the Owner, PGAV Architects (Zoological Designer), a Life Support Systems Engineer, and a team of local MEP, Civil and Structural engineer sub-consultants. Construction of Phase 1 is scheduled to start *early January 2023 with a completion date early May, 2024*. The construction management software, Procore, will be utilized for this project.

Questions pertaining to this project are to be via email only and addressed to:

Karen Schenk, Director of Project and Site Design, PLA, LEED GA, Facilities and Planning Department, Karen.schenk@columbuszoo.org

RFQ proposals to be submitted via email PDF to: Karen Schenk, Director of Project and Site Design, PLA, LEED GA, Facilities and Planning Department Karen.schenk@columbuszoo.org

Qualifications will be reviewed within 5 business days, and each selected qualified Construction Manager at Risk candidate will be sent a Non-Disclosure agreement, which must be signed and submitted to Karen Schenk via email before release of the Request for Proposal information. Further instructions for submitting a formal response to the subsequent RFP for the project will also be sent at that time.

The project is Prevailing Wage with rates published by the Department of Labor. All documentation is to be compiled and submitted throughout the project.

OhioMBE.com

OHIO BLACK CARD ACCESS TO CONTRACTS MOBILE APP



Welcome to these new Ohio Black Card Vendors

- Majestic Rehab & Remodeling
- Spencer 4Higher Media
- JDM Inspects
- TMAAC, LLC
- MOD Network, LLC
- Royal Cottage, LLC
- Speaking Grace
- Service Air
- LTD Trucking
- Griffin Fire & Pipe
- Fineregy Global
- Allegiance Insurance
- Curb Appeal Powerwashing
- American Services and Protection
- 3H Bookkeeping & Taxes
- 360 Photo Booth
- Nailz by Ari

Add your business. Your customers are looking for you.
OhioBlackCard.com

**MBE

hio**

COFFEE & CONSTRUCTION

**Business Showcase
Agency Updates
1 on 1 Networking**

May 18 @ 8:00 am

CoffeeConstruction.us

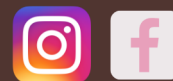
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Office: (216) 662-0077

Email: qcgservices@yahoo.com



(Continued from page 3)

are subsidizing the education of working and middle-class families in the suburbs. Many district employees live high on the hog at the expense of Black children.

I have never seen a taxpayer-financed organization maltreat the public. There is the staff who won't pass out their business cards. Some directors won't meet with LEDE vendors. Many act as those we, the community, should be honored that they are assisting us.

The Columbus Board of Education cannot ask for a tax levy until community relations improve. Black women are Columbus City Schools' most significant stakeholders. Perhaps CI Karen and her counterparts should be required to take a comprehensive course in diversity and implicit bias. If they treat adults this way, I wonder what is happening with our babies.

Just my thoughts...

4 PAGE BUSINESS PLAN for New & Existing Businesses

Wednesday
April 6 & May 4
1:00 pm

register now

IncreaseDiversity.eventbrite.com



Ambrose Moses III
Esq, CED Educator, Central State
University



EXTENSION
1890 LAND-GRANT INSTITUTION



LLC vs Corporation vs Sole Proprietorship

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 13 & MAY 11
1:00 PM

REGISTER NOW

INCREASEDIVERSITY.EVENTBRITE.COM



AMBROSE MOSES III
Esq, CED Educator, Central
State University



EXTENSION
1890 LAND-GRANT INSTITUTION



Certification 101



Learn about the certification process, what documents to submit with your application, and area certifying programs.

- May 5 at 6 pm
- May 12 at 11:30 am
- May 19 at 11:30 am

OHBDC.eventbrite.com



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.

Support Black Media

Ohio Diversity Network

Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 10:00am
[Empower Up the Girl Power](#)

Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 10:00am
[Minority Health Fair](#)—Springfield

Monday, May 2, 2022 at 12:00am
[Dennis Hopson Celebrity Golf Outing](#)

Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 1:00pm
[The 4-Page Business Plan for New & Existing Businesses](#)

Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 2:00pm
[OBDC – Certification Assistance](#)

Saturday, May 7, 2022 at 1:00pm
[Boost Her Brand](#)

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 9:00am
[Senior Health & Wellness Expo](#)

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 1:00pm
[LLC vs Corporation vs Sole Proprietorship](#)

Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 5:30pm
[OBDC Basic Construction Estimating](#)

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 11:30pm
[OBDC Construction Academy – Drug Free Workplace](#)

Thursday, May 26, 2022 at 5:30pm
[OBDC Construction Academy – Intro to Mechanic Liens](#)



*OhioDiversityNetwork.com is
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post it on OhioDiversityNetwork.com?

Email: news@ohiombe.com for login information

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BUSINESS
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Al Edmondson
Founder

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