



TED STRICKLAND
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Executive Order 2009-5S

Creating the Ohio Minority Business Advisory Council

- 1. While the Number of Minority Businesses in Ohio has Grown Exponentially, Those Businesses Have Not Generated Opportunities and Revenue Comparable to Their Numbers.** Minority businesses are a vital part of Ohio's economy. The most recent U. S. Census Bureau Survey of Business Owners identified 58,607 minority companies in the State of Ohio. This number represented a 19% increase in minority-owned firms from the previous survey that was conducted in 1997. These businesses generated over \$10.5 billion in gross receipts and employed over 88,600 workers. However, revenue growth and the long-term success of those companies has not matched the business start-up numbers. Consequently, Ohio is committed to providing the resources needed to attract, retain, grow and develop minority companies and to removing any barriers that could impede their stability and success. Access to competition for federal, state, and local procurement opportunities is one important way to support the growth of strong and sustainable minority businesses.
- 2. In Order to Strengthen the State's Economy, Ohio Must Continue to Recognize and Facilitate Opportunities for Minority Businesses to Do Business in Ohio.** The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD), through its Minority Business Enterprise Division (MBED), is responsible for creating a business environment in Ohio that assists in the growth and development of minority-owned businesses. The Ohio Department of Administrative Services (ODAS), through its Equal Opportunity Division (EOD), aids the MBED by providing certification, procurement and compliance services for the constituents served by MBED, administers the Encouraging Growth, Diversity and Equity (EDGE) business assistance program, and provides assistance to state agencies to ensure equal access to contracting opportunities for MBE

and EDGE businesses. While the State has made quantifiable strides in making Ohio an attractive location for minority businesses to expand, the State recognizes that barriers to that expansion and growth still exist.

3. **Ohio is Committed to Promoting Programs and Policies that Close the Gap in Assets and Wealth for Minority-Owned Businesses.** It is important for Ohio to continue to provide access to programs, to promote policies and to build a framework for discussions about how to remove barriers, increase awareness and improve minority business owners' potential for success. To that end, the State is committed to undertaking a collaborative effort with the minority business community to develop strategies that will facilitate longevity and wealth-creation for minority business owners.
4. **Establishment of the Minority Business Advisory Council.** In order to ensure that minority businesses have access to capital, bonding, procurement opportunities, technical assistance and that Ohio creates a business environment that is conducive to inclusion and equity I hereby order the creation of the Ohio Minority Business Advisory Council (the "Minority Business Council").
5. **Role of the Council.** The role of the Minority Business Council will be to:
 - a. Advise and assist the Directors of the ODOD and ODAS in carrying out each Department's respective responsibilities in the areas of economic development, employment, procurement, (including initiatives outlined in Executive Orders 2008-12S and 2008-13S), training and other matters affecting the economic vitality of the minority business community;
 - b. Provide advice, insight and expertise to the State in the diversification and opening of its markets, as well as the identification of business opportunities for the minority business community;
 - c. Provide guidance and feedback about policies and legislation that would favorably impact the growth and development of minority business enterprises and about practices that would increase the number of minorities starting businesses and further contributing to the growth of Ohio's economy;

- d. Keep the ODOD and ODAS abreast of significant issues and trends in minority business growth, development or ownership;
 - e. Submit a bi-annual report to the Directors of ODOD and ODAS that outlines concerns, issues and challenges regarding minority business development and growth and identifies potential initiatives to respond those issues and challenges.
6. **Council Composition.** The Minority Business Council shall consist of not more than forty (40) individuals who have been or are presently engaged in minority business development, either in private industry, in governmental service or as a scholar of recognized achievement in the study of minority business matters, as well as other individuals who are concerned about the development of minority businesses in Ohio. The Council shall include representation from all regions of the State and should include at least one member from each ethnic group included in the definition of "Minority Business Enterprise," as set forth in Section 122.71 of the Ohio Revised Code, while also including diverse individuals based on gender and nationality subgroup. Members of the Council shall also include:
- a. The Directors of ODOD and ODAS or their respective designees;
 - b. One member appointed by the President of the Ohio Senate and one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Ohio Senate;
 - c. One member appointed by the Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives and one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Ohio House of Representatives;
 - d. Individuals whose profession, knowledge or experience makes them representative of the following constituencies:
 - i. Local, state and federal small and minority business assistance or community development programs;
 - ii. The minority business community;
 - iii. Ohio minority supplier development councils;
 - iv. Local government;
 - v. The banking and insurance industries;

- vi. The private business sector;
 - vii. Minority chambers of commerce;
 - viii. Other individuals as recommended by the Directors of ODOD and ODAS.
7. **Governance; Support Staff; Meetings; Compensation.** The Director of the ODOD, or designee, will serve as Chair of the Council, provide leadership and staff for the Council, and will call meetings as needed. The Director of ODAS, or designee, will serve as Vice Chair of the Council. The Director of the ODOD is also authorized to create subcommittees and establish membership criteria as needed. Members of the Council will not be compensated for their participation on the Council. However, consistent with Executive Orders previously issued, members may be reimbursed for any reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in conducting the business of the Council. Such expenses shall be paid by ODOD.
8. I signed this Executive Order on April 8, 2009 in Columbus, Ohio, and it will not expire unless it is rescinded.



Ted Strickland

Ted Strickland, Governor

ATTEST:

Jennifer Brunner, Secretary of State