

Mayor Steve Benjamin's
MINORITY BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL (MBAC)

In 2013, Mayor Steve Benjamin demonstrated his commitment to minority business success in the City of Columbia by establishing the Mayor's Minority Business Advisory Council (MBAC). MBAC assists the Mayor in coordinating the City's efforts to maximize the opportunities and growth of minority businesses.

The Minority Business Advisory Council is charged with collaborating with the Office of Business Opportunities to carry out responsibilities in the areas of economic development, employment, procurement, training, and other matters affecting the economic vitality of the minority business community. The Council will provide guidance and input on current policies and practices that have an impact on the minority business community. The Council consists of nearly 20 minorities who are either small business owners or individuals who consistently support the development of minority businesses through their work in private industry, government, and academia.

In 2013, MBAC began playing an active role in proposing amendments to the City's Mentor Protégé Program. Several of these amendments were approved by Columbia City Council in February 2014.

~ Council Members ~



Greg Davis, Chairman, is the Director of Minority and Small Business Affairs at the SC Department of Transportation. Mr. Davis was appointed as Chairman of the Advisory Council in March, 2015. Mr. Davis also serves as the Director of the South Carolina Minority Business Development Agency and the Small Business Development Manager for the South Carolina Department of Commerce.
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W. Lee Catoe is the Special Assistant to the CEO and VP of Community Affairs at the *Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce*. Mr. Catoe develops strategies for programs that promote, support and sustain small, minority, and women owned businesses throughout the Greater Columbia metro area.
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Jimmy Chao is the President of *Chao and Associates, Inc.*, a company that specializes in Structural Engineering, Civil Engineering, Land Surveying, and Asbestos Surveying. Some of the company's notable projects are the Williams Brice Stadium Vibration Stabilization, the SC-277 Pedestrian Overpass, and the Confederation Print Plant Renovation.
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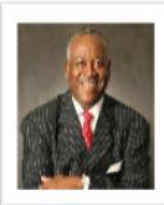
Glenda Coleman is a Lecturing Professor at the *University of South Carolina* in strategy, management and entrepreneurship. She researches key issues relating to the business climate and quality of life in the greater Columbia/Midlands area. Leveraging her years as a lawyer and Wall Street Investment Banker, Ms. Coleman is managing partner of Pinnacle Venture Advisors which serves mid-sized businesses.

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Todd Corley is the co-owner of *Corley Construction*, specializing in heavy civil construction. Mr. Corley is a native of Irmo, South Carolina and has participated in numerous federal, state, and private sector projects as he diligently works to grow and expand the firm.

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Tony Grant is the CEO of *Grant Business Strategies, Inc.*, a strategic and financial advisory firm for middle market and small business companies, churches, for-profit, and not-for-profit entities. Since forming GBSI in 2001, Mr. Grant has successfully directed the company's business activities to arrange/coordinate over \$1 billion in commercial financing and commercial strategic advisory projects for national, regional, and local organizations.

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Cynthia Hardy is the President of *OnPoint Media, LLC*. Her media company produces radio & television shows and offers public relations, marketing, and media services to its client portfolio. Her radio show, *OnPoint! with Cynthia Hardy*, broadcasts throughout South Carolina in addition to parts of Georgia and North Carolina. Mrs. Hardy is also the founder of a non-profit organization, *The OnPoint Leadership Institute for Girls*.

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Karen R. Jenkins is the President/CEO of *KRJ Consulting, LLC*, an integrated management solutions firm that provides consulting, training and professional development, and strategic planning services. Ms. Jenkins is a professional speaker, author, and adjunct professor. She is also a contributing writer for several local and national publications and is a financial consultant for WISTV-10 News.

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Anthony Lawrence, Architect, AIA, NCARB is the Executive VP of *Brownstone Construction and Design Architect*, a professional services company that specializes in pre-design, concept design, design development, construction documents, construction administration, and construction management services.

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Dr. Louis Lynn is the President of *Enviro AGScience, Inc.*, a company which provides construction, construction management, landscape, and design services for a wide range of government and private sector projects. Some of the company's notable projects are the Columbia Convention Center, the University of South Carolina Basketball Arena, the BMW Manufacturing Plant, and the Savannah River Nuclear Site.

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Dahli N. Myers is a principal in *Myers, LLC-Business Lawyers*, which focuses on international business transactions and traditional corporate law. With both domestic and international corporate experience, she understands the delicate intersection between real legal and business risks and acceptable business exposure as a consequence of market participation. Ms. Myers regularly provides exceptional legal advice that allows businesses to capitalize on every good opportunity, while minimizing their exposure to bona fide and unnecessary risks.

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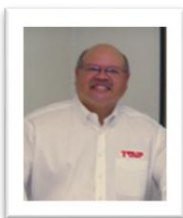
Terris S. Riley is a Principal of *NewVenue Technologies, Inc.*, a thriving Columbia-based IT firm—specializing in custom applications, IT staffing, and data analytics (Big Data). Mrs. Riley is also the founder of *TheVow Projek®*, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping organizations (small & minority firms) navigate through stressful economic climates and unexpected business crisis situations.

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Cheryl Salley is the Minority Business Development Manager of the *SC Small Business Development Centers*. Ms. Salley specializes in providing management and technical assistance, identifying and facilitating business development opportunities, counseling, administrative management and strategic business growth and development.

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Ronald Taylor is a contractor with *Taylor Brothers Construction Company*, a company that specializes in site preparation, water and sewer, and demolition recycling. Some of the company's notable projects are Omega II Biomedical Research Facility-University of South Carolina, Dent Middle School-Richland School District Two, and the Benedict College Charles W. Johnson Stadium.

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Charles Weathers is the Founder/CEO of *The Weathers Group*, a company which develops leaders, strengthens organizations, and improves communities. The company provides technical assistance, facilitates cross-sector collaboration, and designs training curriculum for clients seeking to improve their performance.

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Roscoe Wilson, Jr. is the CEO of the *RC Wilson Group*, a company that focuses on programming and initiatives that empower the community to help its citizens improve their quality of life in Healthcare Services, Re-Entry Services, and Youth Services. The Wilson Group has 19 years of experience with the South Carolina General Assembly as well as 6 other state legislatures.

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Boyd Summers is Executive Vice President of The Congaree Group LLC, a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) specializing in parking services, commercial general construction, construction management and project management for a wide range of government and private sector projects. TCG allows our partners to meet all municipal, state, and federal government mandates for SDVOSB, as well as exceed expectations on mission critical projects.

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