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Jason Webber
City of Toledo
Public Information Officer
(419)245-1016

Mayor Finkbeiner One of Four Ohio Mayors Honored For Promoting Minority-Based Businesses

Cleveland, OH - Mayor Carty Finkbeiner attended the 2008 Northern Ohio Minority Business Council banquet and awards ceremony in Cleveland, where he was one of four Ohio mayors to be honored for their efforts in expanding minority-based businesses in their communities. The theme for the event was "Inspiring Minority Business Entrepreneurs for the Next Millennium," and CNN anchor Donna Brazile served as Keynote Speaker. Mayor Finkbeiner was nominated for the award by Truman Irving of the NOMBC for the City of Toledo's Minority Business Enterprise program, which is overseen by the City of Toledo's Office of Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance. The office works with public and private entities to certify minority-owned businesses within the City.

The annual goals of attainment for the MBE program originally consisted of a 15% ratio in certified minority Construction projects and 7% for Goods, Services, and Material providers. **In July of this year, Mayor Finkbeiner increased the MBE goals to 15% for construction projects and 10% for goods, services, and materials.**

Since Mayor Finkbeiner assumed office in 2006, the Officer of Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance has surpassed its construction project goal every year, and nearly every year in the area of Goods, Services, and Material providers, as these figures show:

2006 - 19% Construction
6% Goods, Services & Materials

2007 - 20% Construction
14% Goods, Services & Materials

2008 (YTD) - 24% Construction
8% Good, Services & Materials

Mayor Finkbeiner was joined by Mayor Don Plusquellic of Akron, Mayor Frank G. Jackson of Cleveland, and Mayor Jay Williams of Youngstown. Mayor Finkbeiner released the following statement: "Toledo is a city that was founded upon diversity, and we take pride in our City being filled with talented individuals who come from a multitude of ethnic and religious backgrounds. We are proud that our economic development is moving forward thanks to the efforts of Toledo's minority entrepreneurs and business owners. I thank the Office of Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance for their efforts in assisting Toledo's minority business owners."

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