



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West appointed to Ohio Minority Business Advisory Council

Strickland appoints Healy official to help promote minority businesses statewide

CANTON, Ohio – The person in charge of the City of Canton’s community development efforts has been appointed to an important post in the administration of Governor Ted Strickland. Carmen West, Deputy Director of Development for Mayor William Healy, was appointed to the Ohio Minority Business Advisory Council to maximize the opportunities and growth of minority businesses.

West, who was appointed to her current position by the Mayor when he took office in January 2008, will serve on the advisory council in addition to her current duties. Before joining the City, West owned her own real estate business in Akron.

“I am incredibly honored to have been given such an important opportunity,” West said. “We can do so much more when it comes to the promotion of minority-owned businesses, and I’m excited to become a part of that effort.”

According to the Governor’s office, the Advisory Council will “collaborate with the Ohio Department of Development and Ohio Department of Administrative Services 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 submit a bi-annual report to the directors of the departments of Development and Administrative Services that details current issues and challenges as well as recommendations on initiatives to respond.

In a press release announcing the creation of the Council in April, Strickland said that minority businesses are “a critical component of Ohio’s economy,” and said that the state could do more to help these businesses create opportunities for long-term success.

“The creation of the Minority Business Advisory Council will centralize our efforts to attract and retain minority businesses, as well as give them the resources they need to grow and thrive here in Ohio,” Strickland said.

Mayor William Healy said that West was an “excellent” choice for the Council, noting that her appointment could have a positive effect on Canton businesses.

“Our having a voice in this process will help Canton’s minority businesses succeed and potentially create more local jobs. I have great faith in Carmen’s ability to represent us well, and will work hard to help her succeed in this appointment.”

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