

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

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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.

MBAC 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 offers 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.

MBAC plays an active role in proposing amendments to the City's Mentor Protégé Program. Since 2014, several amendments have been approved by Columbia City Council.

*~ 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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**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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**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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**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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**Vanessa Mota** is the owner of *Mota Intellectual Services, LLC*, a company that works to bridge the gap between Latino and Non-Latino businesses by providing consultation on how to grow their business. Ms. Mota is the Corporate Relations Officer for Prospanica, and serves on the Principal's Advisory Committee at Irmo Middle School. Ms. Mota does Public Relations and Latino Marketing for the International Festival. She is a member and ambassador of the Greater West Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

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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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**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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**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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