

PRESSRELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Database of Michigan City Minority- and Female-Owned Businesses

Michigan City, IN (July 16, 2003) – Mayor Chuck Oberlie and the Michigan City Human Rights Commission are compiling a database of Michigan City area minority- and female-owned businesses.

“Minorities now own nearly 15 percent of American businesses,” Mayor Oberlie said. “And, according to a report issued by the Office of Advocacy of the U. S. Small Business Administration, 99 percent of these firms are small businesses. While minority-owned businesses are vital to the success of the U.S. economy, significant issues continue to impede the growth of these businesses.”

Mayor Oberlie continued, “Like other businesses, minority-owned businesses produce goods and services, create innovations, absorb labor and generate jobs, provide wages and salaries, and contribute to the support of government services through taxes. All of these business activities are important contributions to the dynamic American economy. The City of Michigan City and the Human Rights Commission believe that supporting minority and women-owned businesses is important to assist in growing local businesses and to supporting this area’s economy.”

“To facilitate this support of local business, the Human Rights Commission is continuing to create a database of minority and women-owned businesses,” Human Rights Commission Director Nancy Widelski said. “The companies listed in this database do not have to be listed with the Indiana Department of Commerce or the local Chamber of Commerce. The comprehensive database will be provided to Michigan City and LaPorte County government offices and businesses. We believe this will encourage the utilization of small businesses when purchasing goods and services in our community.”

Director Widelski concluded, “By providing the Human Rights Commission with the information about their companies, business owners will have a better opportunity to do business with local city departments, government offices and other businesses.”

For more information, contact the Michigan City Human Rights Commission at 219/873-1429. Forms can be requested from or picked up at the Human Rights Commission office in City Hall or can be found on the Michigan City website, www.emichigancity.com.

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