

December 11, 2017

Mr. Randall J. Meyer  
Ohio Inspector General  
Office of the Inspector General  
James A. Rhodes State Office Tower  
30 East Broad Street, Suite 2940  
Columbus, OH 43215-3414

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INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Dear Inspector General Meyer:

This letter is in response to the recommendations made by your office to the Ohio Department of Administrative Services (ODAS) in File ID Number: 2015-CA00049. ODAS strongly believes in the need to carry out its mission to administer the state's minority business program with integrity. The following action items detail how your office's recommendations are being implemented.

**Recommendation #1:**

**Review the conduct of Unity Resource Solutions and Eron Colson to determine if debarment is warranted pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §125.25.**

Action:

The Department of Administrative Services will commence debarment proceedings against Unity Resource Solutions and Eron Colson.

**Recommendation #2:**

**Review the conduct of AIN Systems and Demitra Burkhart to determine if debarment is warranted pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §125.25.**

Action:

The Department of Administrative Services will commence debarment proceedings against AIN Systems and Demitra Burkhart.

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**Recommendation #3:**

**Implement a more thorough review process of applications for Minority Business Enterprise certification, including on-site reviews, to remove the potential of pass-through businesses receiving MBE certification.**

Action:

Since January 2017, the Department of Administrative Services has implemented a process where all MBE and EDGE applications are automatically subject to in-person on-site reviews.

**Recommendation #4:**

**Implement a rule change to add “Commercially Useful Function” criteria to MBE certification requirements contained in Ohio Administrative Code §123:2-15. This language is already applicable to state EDGE certification through Ohio Administrative Code §123:2-16-15**

Action:

As part of our rule review process, we will work to make this recommended change. In addition, the Equal Opportunity Division has commenced numerous compliance reviews to see if certified vendors remain in compliance with all program rules, including Ohio Administrative Code §123:2-15-01(B)(12), which prohibits pass-throughs.

We appreciate the opportunity to detail the actions that ODAS has undertaken in response to your recommendations. Should you have any questions regarding our response, or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,



Robert Blair, Director