

*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.

The Minority Business Advisory Council 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 will provide 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.

In 2013, MBAC began playing an active role in proposing amendments to the City's Mentor Protégé Program. Several of these amendments were approved by Columbia City Council in February 2014.

*~ 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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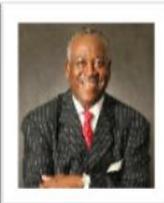
**Glenda Coleman** is a Lecturing Professor at the *University of South Carolina* in strategy, management and entrepreneurship. She researches key issues relating to the business climate and quality of life in the greater Columbia/Midlands area. Leveraging her years as a lawyer and Wall Street Investment Banker, Ms. Coleman is managing partner of Pinnacle Venture Advisors which serves mid-sized businesses.

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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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**Tony Grant** is the CEO of *Grant Business Strategies, Inc.*, a strategic and financial advisory firm for middle market and small business companies, churches, for-profit, and not-for-profit entities. Since forming GBSI in 2001, Mr. Grant has successfully directed the company's business activities to arrange/coordinate over \$1 billion in commercial financing and commercial strategic advisory projects for national, regional, and local organizations.

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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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