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Local Chambers of Commerce Partner to Provide Members More Extensive Services

COLUMBUS – The Asian-American Commerce Group (AACG), the Somali-American Chamber of Commerce (SACC) and the Hispanic Chamber of Columbus (HCC) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together in a coordinated effort to provide their respective members access to business opportunities as a collective, giving their membership more extensive services for their membership dues.

“The MOU will benefit AACG members by uplifting all small business communities and fostering partnerships that will take our entrepreneurial ecosystem to the next level,” said Shyam Rajadhyaksha with the Asian American Commerce Group.

“The Somali-American Chamber of Commerce understands that true long-term business success lies in partnership and collaboration. We are excited by the possibilities and opportunities this MOU represents for all our members. Furthermore, the Somali-American Chamber of Commerce also acknowledges the leadership and guidance shown by Congressman Stivers at The Ohio Chamber of Commerce and leadership at U.S. Small Business Administration in making this partnership possible,” said Hanad Duale with the Somali-American Chamber of Commerce.

“The recently signed Memorandum of Understanding has been long over-due and the Hispanic Chamber of Columbus is proud to be able to provide further opportunities to its membership while following its mission of creating strength and unity across central Ohio. The collaboration with the other chambers will truly allow us to benefit our community and entrepreneurs while further connecting us to the general market. We are thankful for the leadership behind this initiative and look forward to the great opportunities that will arise from this collaboration,” said Claudia DeLeon with the Hispanic Chamber of Columbus.

The working group was convened by the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in an effort to find ways that the various Chambers could partner



to the benefit of their members. The group meets regularly once a quarter to develop ways to partner and collaborate. Chambers from across Ohio participate in the meetings.

“The U.S. Small Business Administration, through our SBA Columbus District Office, is proud to announce that in partnership with the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, a formal agreement of cooperation between the Asian American Commerce Group, the Hispanic Chamber of Columbus, and the Somali American Chamber of Commerce has been forged,” said Everett M. Woodel, Jr., District Director of the SBA Columbus District Office. “This agreement will allow these important and diverse chambers the opportunity to jointly pursue projects and initiatives that will mutually benefit the Chambers’ members and bring greater economic prosperity to the entire State of Ohio.”

In the Memorandum of Understanding:

- The Asian-American Commerce Group will incorporate the Hispanic-American and Somali-American IT companies under its umbrella and provide leadership when seeking IT contracting opportunities.
- The Somali-American Chamber of Commerce has an expertise in the area of transportation/logistics, with 7,000 members who are truckers. The SACC will incorporate Asian-American and Hispanic truckers under its umbrella for transportation and logistics contracting opportunities.
- The Hispanic Chamber of Columbus has a number of members in the franchising, business development and construction industries. As such, the HCC will incorporate Asian-American and Somali-American construction support under their organization to provide leadership for those seeking construction-related contracting opportunities.

“We are happy to convene local chambers of commerce to find ways that we can all work together for the betterment of our member companies,” said Ohio Chamber CEO Steve Stivers. “When we can find ways to partner, like in the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding, everyone wins.”

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