



STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO INSPECTOR GENERAL FINDS OHIO VENDOR IMPROPERLY USED MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE DESIGNATION TO OBTAIN STATE CONTRACTS
Columbus, Ohio, October 12, 2017

The Ohio Inspector General issued a report of investigation today after investigating Unity Resource Solutions (Unity) a second time, for continued abuse of the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program. The current investigation looked at ongoing state contracts that the MBE continued to obtain after having knowledge that its MBE certification had been rescinded.

The MBE program is designed to assist minority-owned businesses in obtaining state contracts for goods and services. In order to participate in the program, certain criteria must be met including that the business must have been in operation for at least one year and the business owner must have control over the day-to-day operations and financial aspects of the company.

Unity is a sole proprietorship that was created on April 17, 2014, to provide information technology, consulting, and staffing services. The vendor applied for MBE certification on April 23, 2014, which was far short of the program requirement of having operated for a year prior to application. The investigation determined that Unity was notified that it was not properly certified but continued to operate and obtain over a million dollars in state contracts. The investigation further found, and an administrative proceeding confirmed, that Unity did not have control over either the business or financial operations of the business. Investigators determined that Unity acquired its MBE certification at the direction of another company, AIN Systems, who ultimately benefited from the contracts.

The report of investigation has been sent to the Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney and the Columbus City Attorney for consideration.

LINK TO REPORT

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2015-CA00049 is now available at:

<http://watchdog.ohio.gov/investigations/2017investigations.aspx>

The prior Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2014-CA00039 is available at:

<http://watchdog.ohio.gov/investigations/2014investigations.aspx>

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