



STATE OF OHIO

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

RANDALL J. MEYER, INSPECTOR GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATION FINDS STATE OF OHIO EMPLOYEE MISUSED MBE/EDGE CERTIFICATIONS TO BENEFIT HUSBAND'S FAMILY BUSINESS
Columbus, Ohio, September 20, 2018

The Office of the Ohio Inspector General determined that Nena Bradley, a 22-year employee of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, was operating a personal business that was certified by both the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Encouraging Diversity, Growth, and Equity (EDGE) programs. The State of Ohio establishes an annual goal for state agencies to award contracts to MBE and EDGE participants.

The investigation found that Nena Bradley's business, A. Joseph Business Enterprises, LTD. (AJBE) used her MBE and EDGE certifications to receive over \$1,000,000 in contracts from various state agencies and universities for the purchase of office furniture, office systems, labor, and delivery. The investigation revealed that Nena Bradley transferred most of the proceeds from the contracts with state agencies to The Bradley Company, a family business, who was responsible for submitting the bids, ordering materials, serving as project manager, providing labor, and installing materials under the contracts. By delegating the contractual obligations to The Bradley Company, Nena Bradley (AJBE) failed to have day-to-day control over her business including operations, financial and business management, and human resources and policy decisions which violated the MBE and EDGE programs' requirements and are contrary to the programs' objectives of supporting the growth of economically and socially disadvantaged businesses in the marketplace.

The report contains several recommendations as well as a referral to the Franklin County Prosecutor for consideration.

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2017-CA00011 is now available at:
<http://watchdog.ohio.gov/investigations/2018investigations.aspx>

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