August is National Black Business Month; *in recognition, please*:

- **Circulate and re-circulate your hard-earned dollars within the community;**
- Encourage and Support Black Entrepreneurship;
- Utilize our Black professionals: doctors, dentists, lawyers, financial analysts, IT, business and political consultants, etc.;
- Use 'word of mouth' to actively market Black businesses that have provided quality service / products;
- Demand quality services and products from Black-owned businesses; and then pay for said services and products as you would with majority-owned businesses; resist insisting that Black-owned businesses 'cut you a deal', thereby reducing their profit margins;
- Support legislation that supports small business growth;
- Support financial institutions that support Black businesses; fight to knock down barriers and improve access to capital; and invest in Black-owned businesses;
- identify and support economic generators that create opportunities that encompass our communities (the South Suburban Airport is a great example);
- Elect and re-elect officials with a proven track record of expanding opportunities for Black business;
- Demand that Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) policies at all levels are more than words on a document; demand results; demand transparency in reporting progress towards meeting and exceeding MBE/WBE/DBE goals;
- Promote upward mobility for our professionals in all sectors;
- Challenge the status quo of limited access to Corporate Boards;
- Provide Internships to our youth;
- Mentor a business; Pass on the experiences you've gained so that others can mitigate the challenges of starting / sustaining their business;
- **Black businesses:** form alliances and purchase collectively to secure lower pricing on inventory and supplies;
- **Black business owners:** focus on expanding your knowledge of all areas of your business beyond just your core service or product: financial, technical, customer service, marketing, strategic planning, relationship management, negotiations...; and practice succession planning.

During the month of August *and every month*, buy Black, whenever and wherever it works for you and yours, and please be *intentional*.