

minority  
out to support  
football

# New Pittsburgh Courier BUSINESS

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## Procopio receives Minority Business Legacy Award

NEW YORK—Ernesta G. Procopio, chairman of E.G. Bowman Co., Inc., on July 23 received the Minority Enterprise Development Week 25th Anniversary Minority Business Legacy Award.

E.G. Bowman ranks as the nation's largest minority-owned and woman-owned insurance brokerage, serving many of America's largest corporations from its Wall Street office. She founded the firm in 1953 as a storefront insurance agency.

"The history of E.G. Bowman and its trailblazing accomplishments stand as a legacy for us to revere," said Heyward B. Davenport, northeastern regional director of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency.

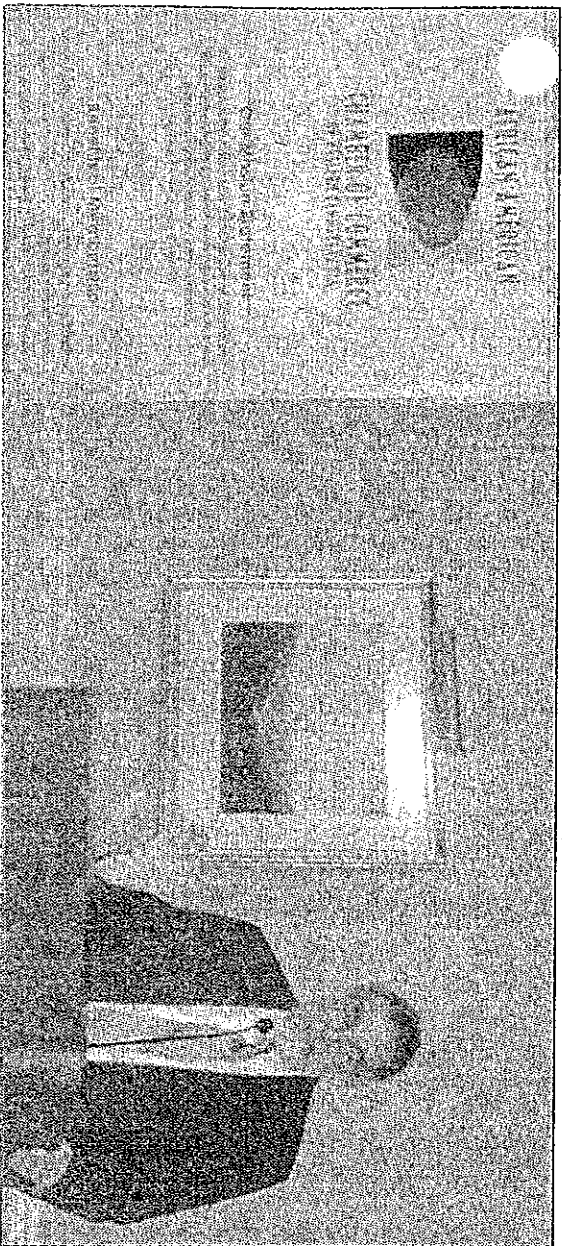
Procopio received the award at a gala held at the New York Sheraton Hotel.

"There's been progress, but it's far from universal, and the gains of earlier years are under attack," she said. "Mi-

nority business owners still have to overcome obstacles that shouldn't be there. At E.G. Bowman we will keep knocking on those doors, innovating and pursuing the American dream and our part in the American free enterprise system."

Procopio has received many honors and awards, including, in recent years, the Turner Broadcasting System's Trumpet Award, induction into the African American Business Hall of Fame & Museum, The

National Alliance Education one of the 25 New Agents in Ar Essence magazine Award and induction into the Minority Business Fame and Museum. E.G. Bowman vice insurance loss-control firm include FORTI panies, major firmment agency and small business www.egbowman



ADDRESSING CHAMBER MEMBERS—Robert Nelkin, United Way president and chief professional officer, spoke of forging new approaches and collaborations to address some of the critical issues plaguing city neighborhoods.

## New director reveals new day for United Way

by Denise Johnson  
Co-Staff Writer

There's been a paradigm shift under the new leadership at the United Way of Allegheny County and it started just over a month ago when Robert Nelkin assumed the reins as president and chief professional officer of the non-profit social service umbrella.

With more than 37 years experience in the social service, Nelkin took advantage of an invitation extended by the African American Chamber of Commerce last Friday to present his vision during the chamber's monthly PowerBreakfast held at the Rivers Club.

While acknowledging that the United Way is "not a silver bullet," Nelkin spoke enthusiastically of forging new approaches and collaborations to address some of the more critical issues plaguing city neighborhoods in an effort to stem the tide of violence, especially among youth.

One idea would pair youth from rival neighborhoods to work together on community service projects in an effort to curb violence due to alleged gang and turf wars.

His extensive experience in child advocacy and development is one reason he places a priority in pre-emptive measures. Nelkin invested a decade as Director of Policy Initiatives at the University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development following nationally praised tenure as the director of Human Services for Allegheny County. The experience will serve him well in coordinating services with similar organizations in the region to maximize outcomes.

"Our situation could be a lot worse," he told the early morning assembly. "If you compare Pittsburgh to Philadelphia or other cities our homicide (rate) is much less. We won't wipe the problem off the plate. That's why we've opened up the allocation process so that partner agencies and agencies that are not partnered with the United Way will be able to compete for United Way dollars."

One example Nelkin cited was Best of the Batch, the Homestead-based organization headed by Pittsburgh Steeler Charlie Batch.

"In the two hours I was tremendously impressed. I saw dozens of caring adults working with over a hundred impressionable children, teaching them the value of fair play and playing by the rules."

Other community-driven initiatives include One Hood; Nelkin has been meeting with Cornell Jones and Paradise Gray to discuss collaboration

## Director reveals new day

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and assistance.

"We go with those approaches that work—things are researched and demonstrated elsewhere that you can bring here, and secondly, things that are evidence and third of all, innovative ideas."

Nelkin underscored the objective address critical needs with programs for pre-, as well as, results such as preventing youth violence and helping to motivating kids to succeed in school.

Although Nelkin places an emphasis on youth, he added that issues pertaining to seniors, families that are struggling and the disabled communities would not be overlooked.