

**Brandon M. Scott**  
*Mayor, City of Baltimore*



**Equity and Civil Rights**

**Dana Petersen Moore**  
*Director*  
*Chief Equity Officer*

**September 6, 2023**

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Attn: Natawna Auston  
Room 409, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

**Re: City Council Bill 23-0424 Unfair, Abusive, or Deceptive Trade Practices - Penalties**

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Office of Equity and Civil Rights (OECR) has reviewed City Council Bill 23-0424 and has concluded that this proposed ordinance will **likely improve** positive outcomes for Black, Latine, and other residents of color.

Historically, Black, Latine, and other residents of color have been targeted by unfair, abusive, and deceptive practices. To remedy those historic wrongdoings, this bill establishes civil and criminal penalties for violations and authorizes the City Solicitor, on behalf of the Mayor and City Council, to investigate potential violations and initiate legal proceedings for injunctive relief and the imposition and collection of civil penalties.

Ensuring fair and equitable trade practices not only upholds principles of social justice but also promotes economic stability and opportunities for marginalized communities. By safeguarding communities from exploitative practices, Baltimore City will foster a more inclusive and equitable society where everyone can participate in the benefits of a thriving economy, ultimately contributing to a more just and prosperous future for all.

Sincerely,

Dana Petersen Moore  
Director  
Office of Equity and Civil Rights

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Please direct inquiries related to this matter to OECR's Legislative Liaison:

Ty'lor Schnella at (443) 401-8460 or ([Tylor.schnella@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Tylor.schnella@baltimorecity.gov))