

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor

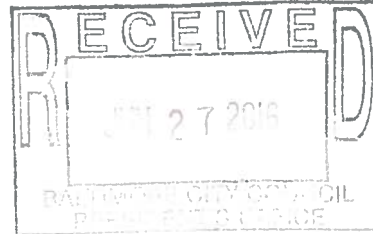


OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND  
WAGE ENFORCEMENT  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION

KISHA A. BROWN, Director  
7 E. Redwood Street, 9th Floor  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

June 27, 2016

The Honorable President and Members  
Of the Baltimore City Council  
Attn: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary  
Room 409, City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202



Re: City Council Bill 16-0626 – City Contractors – Worksite Posting and Reporting Requirements

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Baltimore City Office of Civil Rights and Wage Enforcement appreciates the efforts of Councilman Welch and the co-sponsors in drafting a bill aimed at improving contractor compliance. City Council Bill 16-0626, most notably increases certain penalties and alters reporting requirements. This bill makes mirror changes to the similarly situated statutes governing the prevailing and living wage rates of the City.

The Wage Commission enforces the minimum, living and prevailing wage laws of Baltimore City.<sup>1</sup> The living and prevailing wage laws respectively apply to all City service contracts as well as construction contracts over \$5,000. Currently there are approximately over \$1 billion in total active City contracts within the Wage Commission's jurisdiction. For those contracts, the Commission is charged with receiving copies of weekly payrolls, investigating workers' complaints, investigating any payroll irregularities, and annually setting the living and prevailing wage rates. The current staff of the Wage Commission includes one full-time employee.

Some of the most impactful changes in City Council Bill 16-0626 include increasing the \$20 penalty in §25-5 by 900% per day for failure to post the prevailing hourly wage rates and creating an identical penalty in §26-5 (page 4). The bill also shortens the amount of days a construction or service contractor has to submit its weekly project payrolls and the penalty for being delinquent has been increased for each calendar day that the weekly payroll is late.

<sup>1</sup> Minimum Wage Law, Labor and Employment Art. 11§1-6; Prevailing Wage for Work under Construction Contracts, Finance and Procurement Art. 5§25; Hours and Wages- Service Contracts, Finance and Procurement Art. 5 §26.

Comments

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The Office of Civil Rights and Wage Enforcement appreciates the opportunity to be a part of the process of ensuring employees are paid fairly and timely and looks forward to continued discussions on City Council Bill 16-0626 to empower, educate and enforce the rights of Baltimore's construction and service workers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kisha A. Brown', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kisha A. Brown  
Director

cc: Angela Gibson, Office of the Mayor