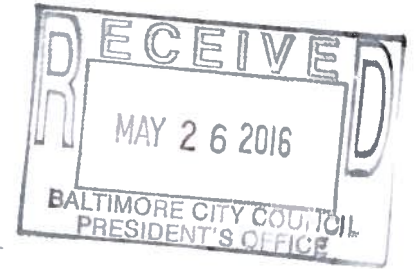


MEMORANDUM



TO: Honorable President and Members of the City Council
Attention: Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

FROM: William H. Cole, President and CEO *Blank*

DATE: May 25, 2016

SUBJECT: City Council Bill No. 16-0672
Charter Amendment – Board of Estimates – Local, Small, and Disadvantaged
Business Enterprise Program

Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) supports all efforts to strengthen the competitive position of local, small and disadvantaged business enterprises within the City of Baltimore. The subject Bill calls for the development of preferential standards for the application of City-based purchasing efforts via an amendment to the City Charter.

Accredited research supports the fact that small businesses fuel economic and job growth locally, regionally and nationally. Entrepreneurial activity, through the creation and support of small businesses, is seen as a driver of jobs, income, and opportunities for local residents within Baltimore City.

The creation of programs to provide additional opportunities for Baltimore-based small business to take advantage of City-based purchasing would help small and disadvantaged businesses to grow and to spur entrepreneurial activity. As a result of these opportunities, local Baltimore City-based businesses would create additional job opportunities for residents increase purchases of locally made goods and services, and increase spending at outlets within Baltimore neighborhoods.

While BDC is supportive of efforts to expand opportunities for our local, small businesses, we respectfully defer to the Law Department on adherence to the City Charter in this matter.

cc: Colin Tarbert
Angela Gibson

sandra.blake/ccbill16/16-0672

Defer to law dept