



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Michael Mocksten, Director of Finance and Adam Manne, Chief Procurement Officer
<b>DATE</b>	April 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2026
<b>SUBJECT</b>	26-0172 Charter Amendment – Charter Committee Recommendations

The Honorable President and  
Members of the City Council  
City Hall, Room 400

**Position: Support with amendments**

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 26-0172 Charter Amendment – Charter Committee Recommendations, the purpose of amending certain processes, requirements, and permissions relating to the 4 adoption and rejection of ordinances and resolutions, the City’s budget, and establishing 5 certain tax rates; providing for the grant of certain minor privilege rights under a process 6 established by ordinance; removing certain improper, non-essential, obsolete, and redundant 7 provisions; setting a special effective date; and submitting this amendment to the qualified 8 voters of the City for adoption or rejection

**Background**

The proposal removes detailed procurement requirements from the Charter and replaces them with a more flexible framework. Instead of prescribing specific processes, the Charter now authorizes the City Council to establish procurement thresholds by ordinance, including when contracts must be advertised or approved by the Board of Estimates.

Core procurement authority is consolidated under the Board of Estimates, which retains responsibility for awarding contracts and overseeing purchasing, while the operational rules governing procurement are shifted out of the Charter.

In effect, this change modernizes procurement by allowing policies and procedures to be updated through legislation rather than requiring Charter amendments, increasing flexibility but reducing detailed Charter level safeguards.

**Analysis**

The Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) and the Director of Finance support the proposed removal of detailed procurement requirements from the Charter and their relocation to the City Code. This change would allow the City Council to modify procurement policies and thresholds through legislation as needed, rather than requiring future Charter amendments. The Charter amendment process, while important, does not allow procurement to be nimble and nuanced.

**Conclusion**

The proposed changes to procurement provisions represent a structural shift from Charter-prescribed requirements to a more flexible, ordinance-driven framework. By relocating procurement rules to the City Code, the City Council will be better positioned to adapt policies and thresholds in response to evolving market conditions and operational needs, improving the City's ability to manage procurement efficiently.

Overall, the proposal is not expected to have a direct fiscal impact but is anticipated to enhance operational efficiency, streamline procurement processes, and provide greater flexibility in managing City purchasing activities.

**For the reasons stated above, the Bureau of Procurement supports with amendments City Council Bill 26-0172.**

cc: Michael Mocksten  
Nina Themelis