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	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Law MWBOO, 131 City Hall
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 08-0221

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



TO DATE: December 4, 2008

Honorable President and Members
Of the City Council of Baltimore
C/o Karen Randle, Executive Secretary
Room 409, City Hall

The Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office is herein reporting on City Council Bill 08-0221-Baltimore Small Business Opportunity Program-which was introduced by Council President Rawlings-Blake et. al. The bill provides for the establishment of a Baltimore Small Business Opportunity Program whereby small, local businesses that are duly certified by MWBOO will be able to bid on contracts specifically reserved for them.

While the Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office understands and appreciates the desire to ensure that small, local businesses benefit from the City's procurement activities, we have noted several issues of concern. These include:

- (1) Devising a mechanism to limit competitively bid contracts to specific firms without contravening the City Charter;
- (2) Adhering to requirements from funding sources that may not allow funds to be used for set-aside programs based on geographic locations;
- (3) Providing the additional resources for MWBOO to administer the ordinance;
- (4) Developing guidelines for adhering to size criteria based on gross sales and number of employees;
- (5) Limiting competition for contracts in the open market.

MWBOO believes that these issues must be addressed before it can support the passage of this bill.

SAW/lvw
Cc: George Nilson
Elena DiPietro

