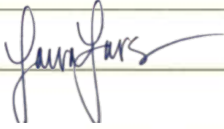



FROM	NAME & TITLE	Laura Larsen, Budget Director 	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Finance Room 454, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	23-0438 Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs - Establishment		

DATE:

TO

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

April 9th, 2024

Position: Does Not Oppose

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 23-0438, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs - Establishment, the purpose of which is to establish the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. The Office will be responsible for advising the Mayor, City Council, and City agencies on ways to improve and ensure equitable access for immigrants to City services and resources and participation in City civic life; implementing, coordinating, and reviewing legislation and policies related to immigrant communities and compliance with related federal, state, and local access laws; advocating to improve outcomes for immigrants; serving as a liaison between the City and immigrant communities; establishing and staffing community advisory groups; and soliciting community and stakeholder input on programs and services related to immigrants.

Background

The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MIMA) is an office within the Mayor's Office (Mayorality) responsible for promoting community wellbeing, economic development, and integration of immigrant communities. The office was formed in 2014 in response to a recommendation in 2013 by the New Americans Task Force to attract and retain immigrants. Since its creation, MIMA has prioritized the following:

1. Improving government accessibility by implementing language access programming with twelve City agencies and facilitating economic and civics-based educational opportunities for New Americans;
2. Supporting economic growth through management of a state grant that provides job placement and vocational training.
3. Partnering with the Latino Economic Development Center and Baltimore Development Corporation to support immigrant business owners; and
4. Ensuring community well-being by working with community-based organizations to connect families with access to services and working with City agencies to ensure compliance with best practices related to welcoming immigrant communities.

The proposed legislation seeks to formally codify the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MIMA) as a part of Mayorality. Under the legislation the formal responsibilities will include:

1. Advising the Mayor, City Council, and City agencies on ways to improve immigrant's access to City services and resources and participation in City civic life;
2. Implementing and coordinating policies related to immigrant communities and compliance with related federal, state, and local access laws;

3. Advocating for equal treatment of immigrants and equitable access to City services;
4. Reviewing proposed legislation related to immigrants;
5. Advocating for changes in public policy, service delivery, and funding to improve outcomes for immigrants;
6. Serving as a liaison between the City and immigrant communities;
7. Establishing and staffing community advisory groups;
8. Soliciting community and stakeholder input on programs and services related to immigrants; and
9. Developing and submitting an annual report to the Mayor and City Council.

Fiscal Impact Analysis

The Department of Finance anticipates no costs associated with enacting this legislation. Because this legislation is codifying the existing office and keeping the function within the Mayor's Office there are no additional administrative or overhead costs associated with implementing the legislation.

Conclusion

City Council Bill 23-0438, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs - Establishment proposes to codify MIMA as an office within the Mayoralty agency. Finance supports the intent of this legislation to codify MIMA and the work it does as a permanent component of City services and demonstrate the City's commitment to equity, diversity, and well-being of its immigrant population.

Finance anticipates that there will be no cost associated with enacting this legislation.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 23-0438.

cc: Nina Themelis
Michael moiseyev