
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
JAMES L. SHEA, CITY SOLICITOR
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET
SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

March 3, 2021

The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
Attn: Public Safety and Government Operations Committee
Room 409, City Hall 100 N. Holiday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: Council Bill 21-0024 - Minority and Women's Business Utilization – Emergencies Dear President and City Council Members

The Department of Law Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office (MWBOO) hereby reports on City Council Bill 21-0024 - Minority and Women's Business Utilization – Emergencies.

We recognize the purpose of this bill is clarifying the City's minority business enterprises (MBE) and women's business enterprises (WBE) contract utilization requirements for certain emergency procurements; requiring that, after an emergency procurement, the agency submit a report to the Board of Estimates and Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office (MWBOO) specifying the good faith efforts made to utilize MBE/WBE firms in Baltimore City's MWBOO program to fulfill emergency contract needs.

The MWBOO program is essential and helps to identify pathways for minority firms that were historically underutilized with emergency procurement opportunities. The need for active participation of MBE/WBE firms during an emergency, which is echoed in this bill does showcase the City's effort to effectively address the disparities that have impacted this aspect of the City's emergency procurement process. This bill is a demonstration of the Baltimore City Council's diligence to identify solutions that increase opportunities for utilization of MBE/WBE participation particularly in areas where minority firms were limited from such performance. In addition, the MWBOO program has a positive impact on local hiring and job creation for City residents as well as those residing within the program's geographical market area.

In closing, The Department of Law Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office (MWBOO) fully supports City Council Bill 21- 0024.

Sincerely,

LaShella Miller
Chief
Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office

CC: Solicitor Jim Shea
Nina Themelis