


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Jill P. Carter, Director 	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Office of Civil Rights & Wage Enforcement 7 E. Redwood Street, 9 th Floor 410-396-3141		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 17-0048 Labor & Employment – Displaced Service Workers Protection		

TO The Honorable Councilwoman, Shannon Sneed
Chair, Labor Committee, Baltimore City Council
Room 500 City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

DATE: May 17, 2017

On behalf of the Baltimore City Office of Civil Rights and Wage Enforcement (OCRWE), I appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on the above reference bill.

Currently, the Wage Commission enforces Prevailing and Living Wage Laws on contracts awarded by the City of Baltimore. Enforcement includes the review of certified payrolls followed by investigation for misclassification and overtime if a discrepancy is determined. In addition to the review of certified payrolls, the Wage Commission also investigates complaints from individuals that believe they are paid unfair wages. The Enforcement of Living Wage service contracts falls within the purview of our office, thereby the monitoring of the Displaced Service Workers would prove for a seamless transition.

Many Baltimore residents are paid wages which are insufficient to provide adequate maintenance for themselves and their families. Such wages impair the health, efficiency, and well-being of the persons employed and of their families. When workers are fired in mass with short notice it adds to the extreme financial stress and causes disruption to the lives of workers and their families. This in turn can place strain on local social serves and government budgets as well.

The Wage Commission supports City Council Bill 17-0048, Displace Service Workers Protection, because it is designed to prevent the harmful impact on workers and their families that can occur when a work force is dismissed with short notice. The bill promotes high road contracting and quality standards within the service contracting industry and provides existing workers with a period of certainty during which they can demonstrate their performance to the new employer.

As the agency that will enforce City Council Bill 17-0048, Displace Service Workers Protection, we anticipate minimal disruption on staff and enforcement procedures. The Office of Civil Rights and Wage Enforcement has a genuine interest in passing Displacement Worker Protection.

Position: **FAVORABLE**

JPC:mm

cc: Kyron Banks, Legislative Liaison to City Council
Sheila Wyche, Secretary, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary