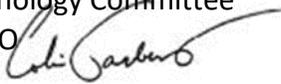




MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 26, 2021
TO: Health, Environment, and Technology Committee
FROM: Colin Tarbert, President and CEO 
POSITION: SUPPORT
SUBJECT: City Council Resolution No. 21-0046R
Investigative Hearing – Use of Facial Recognition Technology in Baltimore

INTRODUCTION

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) is reporting on City Council Bill No. 21-0046R, introduced by Councilmembers Burnett, Conway, Cohen, Dorsey, and Bullock.

PURPOSE

This Resolution urges the use of the 2-year pause and prohibition of the use of facial recognition technology to hear from experts in the field to assess whether the City's pause should continue, and whether any further legislative improvements are necessary.

BRIEF HISTORY

Though facial recognition technologies have been cited as a tool for public safety, City Council Bill No. 21-0001 introduced a pause and prohibition of the use of facial recognition technologies by both City government and private residents. Furthermore, other cities (including Oakland and San Francisco) have passed similar restrictions against such technologies, citing concerns of technology-based racial bias against residents who identify as Black, Indigenous, or Persons of Color.

For the duration of the pause, representatives from the Baltimore Police Department, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, the Department of Transportation, the Law Department, the Office of the Comptroller, the Department of Finance, the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, the Office of the Public Defender for Baltimore City, the Baltimore Development Corporation, and concerned parties from Baltimore's legal, academic, security, and non-profit sectors have been invited to inform the City Council in order to recommend either continuing the ban or whether to update any legislative actions.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

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AGENCY POSITION

The Baltimore Development Corporation **supports** City Council Resolution No. 21-0046R for experts to participate in a fact finding period for the duration of the pause.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kim Clark at kclark@baltimoredevelopment.com or (410) 779-3868.

[SJH]