



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

November 21, 2011

President Bernard C. Young
and Baltimore City Council Members
400 City Hall
Baltimore, MD 21202
Attn: Karen Randle
Re: 11-0330R

Dear President Young and Members of the Baltimore City Council:

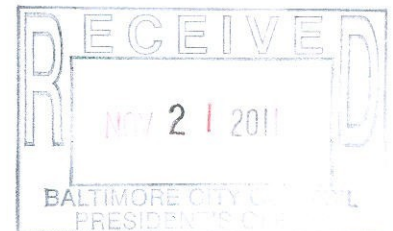
The Mayor's Office of Human Services' Homeless Services Program (MOHS-HSP) welcomes the opportunity to appear before the Council to discuss allegations detailed in a press release by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Homeless Persons Representation Project (HPRP) regarding discrimination against homeless women seeking services at the City of Baltimore's Housing and Resource Center (HRC). The ACLU and HPRP are threatening to bring suit against the City of Baltimore regarding this matter.

Please rest assured that the ACLU press release allegations, repeated in the bill text, are not accurate. The MOHS-HSP, as well as our contractor, which runs the HRC, are well aware of legal prohibitions against gender discrimination and do not condone it. We are dedicated to ensuring gender equality, and that all clients are treated with dignity and respect.

With the active support of the City Solicitor, we have been in direct, ongoing communication with the ACLU and HPRP to discuss their concerns and to provide accurate information about the availability of services. To date, MOHS-HSP is compliant with requests for information and continues to make additional information available. It is our objective to ensure that quality services are provided those in need, regardless of gender, as part of our efforts to make homelessness rare and brief.

Sincerely,

Kate Briddell
Director, Homeless Services Program
Mayor's Office of Human Services



Mayor's Office of Human Services
Homeless Services Program – 620 Fallsway, Baltimore, MD 21202

Comments