



Sheila Dixon
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TO: ✓ **The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle, Executive Secretary**

CC: **Andrew Frank, 1st Deputy Mayor
Carolyn Blakeney, Assistant Deputy Mayor
Angela C. Gibson, Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council**

FROM: **Carla A. Nelson, Director – Minority and Women-Owned Business
Development**

DATE: **Friday, February 27, 2009**

RE: **City Council Bill 08-021 Baltimore Small Business Opportunity
Program** 221

The Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development is responding to City Council Bill 08-021 – Baltimore Small Business Opportunity Program. The bill states this program is designed to *provide certification and decertification of small businesses; establishing certain procurement reserves and procedures, require certain reports, prohibit certain conduct, and setting penalties for violations, define certain terms, affirming the Charter-granted authority of the Board of Estimates, and generally relate to a small business opportunity program for the City of Baltimore.*

The Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development understands the desire for small and local businesses to have access to certain city contracts and have them in a program, similar to what the State of Maryland established called the Small Business Reserve Program.

We defer to the Minority and Women's Business Opportunities Office to determine the likelihood of such a program since it would need to be established and monitored out of their office.

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