

CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH, Mayor



**MINORITY AND WOMEN'S BUSINESS
OPPORTUNITY OFFICE**

Room 101, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
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March 25, 2019

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Attn: Executive Secretary
Rom 409, City Hall
100 Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 02

Re: City Council Bill 19-0343 – Minority and Women's Business Program – Interim
Extension

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office (MWBOO) has reviewed City Council Bill 19-0343. The bill would extend the Minority and Women's Business Program for 18 months, from July 30, 2019.

This extension will allow the M/WBE Program to award a contract to conduct the required disparity study and for a thorough study to be completed. The completed disparity study will determine if there are legal grounds to continue a race-conscious program. In addition, the study will compile and evaluate statistical evidence to determine the presence of business discrimination against Disability-Owned Business Enterprises (DOBE), Veteran Business Enterprises (VBE) and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer –Owned Business Enterprises (LGBTQBE).

The Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office believes that the extension is in the best interest of the City's overall economic health.

Sincerely,

Tamara Brown
Acting Chief

cc: Andre M. Davis, City Solicitor
Dana Moore, Deputy Solicitor
Karen Stokes, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Jeffrey Amoros, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Elena, DiPietro, Chief Solicitor

