



## Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development



April 3, 2014

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Attn: Karen Randle, Executive Secretary  
City Hall, Room 409  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: City Council Bill 14-0345 – Minority and Women's Business Program – Reauthorization

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development (MWBD) has been asked to comment on City Council Bill 14-0345, Minority and Women's Business Program – Reauthorization. The bill reauthorizes the Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (M/WBE) Program for another five years, keeping it in effect until April 30, 2019. MWBD believes the reauthorization is critical and strongly supports this bill that would continue the M/WBE program for another five years.

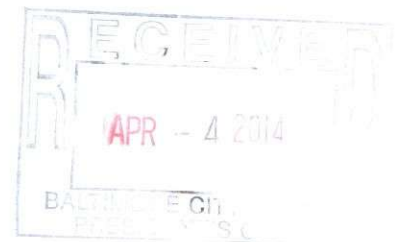
The M/WBE Program is being reauthorized as a result of findings and recommendations from the recently completed disparity study of the City of Baltimore's contracting activities covering fiscal year 2007 through fiscal year 2012. The disparity study concluded that discrimination continues to exist for minority and women-owned businesses in City contracting as well as the relevant marketplace. Further, MWBD believes that minority and women-owned businesses would have very few contracting opportunities with the City if this race-conscious program was terminated.

As the City's primary advocate for small, local, minority and women-owned companies, MWBD believes that the reauthorization of this program is in the best interests of the City and affected stakeholders. A strong M/WBE Program, as evidenced by the success of participating minority and women-owned firms, is essential to the growth and sustainability of the City's economy. This also ties in with the work of the Mayor and the recommendations of the Mayor's Advisory Council on Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises around economic inclusion strategies.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the M/WBE program reauthorization bill. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sharon R. Pinder  
Director



cc: Kaliopé Parthemos, Esq., Deputy Chief for Economic and Neighborhood Development  
Angela Gibson, City Council Liaison  
Thomas B. Corey, Esq., Chief Solicitor, Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office

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