

February 12, 2019

TO: Baltimore City Council
FROM: Al Hutchinson, President and CEO, Visit Baltimore
RE: **COUNCIL BILL 19-0320** – Passenger-for-Hire Services Tax - Corrective

Honorable Council President Young and members of the Baltimore City Council:

As the City's destination marketing organization, Visit Baltimore's job is to drive economic impact through destination promotion and convention sales efforts that inspire and influence the decisions of individual travelers as well as meetings and convention groups alike. We also work to provide a positive experience for all guests.

The availability and accessibility of a variety of passenger-for-hire transportation services to, within and from Baltimore is an important part of the visitor experience. Having counseled with a sampling of our membership base in the taxicab, limousine and transportation network service sectors, we understand that the corrections noted in Council Bill 19-0320 could make their job of collecting and tracking the required passenger-for-hire excise tax easier and in turn minimize any disruption to the visitor. We would defer to the allied organizations representing these industry sub-sectors for more detailed commentary on policy.

Visit Baltimore appreciates the opportunity to respond to Council Bill 19-0320.

Submitted respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Hutchinson".

Al Hutchinson
President & CEO