



FROM	NAME & TITLE	Laura Larsen, Budget Director 	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 469, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 23-0387, Minority and Women's Business Program – Reauthorization		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400

August 13, 2023

Position: Does Not Oppose

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 23-0387, Minority and Women's Business Program – Reauthorization, for the purpose of reauthorizing and continuing the Minority and Women's Business Program; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to minority and women's business enterprises.

Background

The Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office (MWBOO) is responsible for overseeing the City's Minority and Women's Business Program. This includes the Certification of Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) and Women's Business Enterprises (WBE), maintaining a directory of certified businesses, investigating alleged violations of City Code, certifying compliance with City Code before contracts are submitted to the Board of Estimates, setting MBE and WBE participation goals on City contracts, and establishing certain annual goals for MBE and WBE participation. Beginning in Fiscal 2024, MWBOO merged with the Mayor's Office of Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office into the Mayor's Office of Small and Minority Business Advocacy and Development. This will enable the Office to better serve small and minority- and women-owned businesses.

As required, by City Code, the City has conducted multiple disparity studies assessing the City's utilization of M/WBEs since 2000. The most recent study, completed in 2022, found "sufficient evidence of disparity to recommend the continuation of a narrowly tailored race- and gender-based procurement program to address identified disparities", which supports the creation and implementation of various policies and processes to improve the City's utilization of MBE/WBEs. The new Office will lead efforts to adopt and implement the recommendations of the study.

The Minority and Women's Business Program expired on May 30, 2023, per City Code. This legislation aims to extend the expiration date to June 30, 2028.

Fiscal Impact

The Department of Finance anticipates minimal fiscal impact from this legislation. The Fiscal 2024 budget for the new Office is \$5.9 million, a \$3.0 million increase from Fiscal 2023.

Conclusion

This legislation extends the Minority and Women's Business Program through June 30, 2028. Finance does not anticipate any fiscal impact from this legislation.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 23-0387.

cc: Michael Moiseyev
Nina Themelis