




MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable President and Members of the City Council
Attention: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary

FROM: William H. Cole, President and CEO 

DATE: November 8, 2018

SUBJECT: City Council Bill No. 18-0296
Licensing and Regulation - National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline
Information Sign Posting

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) has been asked to comment on City Council Bill No. 18-0296 for the purpose of requiring national human trafficking prevention signage to be posted and maintained on the premises of adult entertainment businesses, food service facilities, hotels, licensed construction contracting services, and massage establishments.

Upon review, the requirements of this Bill do not seem to be overly burdensome to the businesses listed. As drafted, Bill No. 18-0296 takes effect 30 days after the date of enactment but does not include any provisions to notify potentially affected businesses prior to the effective date. BDC is concerned that a 30-day enactment of this Bill may not leave adequate time to notify potentially affected businesses of the new law, leaving them at risk of being penalized for a violation without prior warning. Furthermore, as currently written, the Bill specifies a misdemeanor for violators. BDC does not support any criminal penalties for violators of this requirement, if enacted.

BDC has no objection to Bill No. 18-0296, but submits the preceding comments for consideration by the City Council.

cc: Kyron Banks