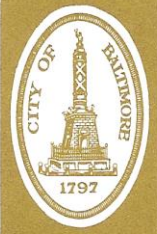


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Christopher Shorter, City Administrator	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Office of the Mayor 100 N. Holliday Street, Room Baltimore, MD 21202		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill # 21-0024 Minority and Women's Business Utilization – Emergencies		

TO The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council c/o
Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

DATE: March 3, 2021

Background

The Office of the City Administrator has been requested to review City Council Bill # 21-0024, Minority and Women's Business Utilization – Emergencies. Council Bill 21-0024 requires that agencies contracting under emergency procurement contact the Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office (the "Office") to find Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) and Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) that can provide the goods or services needed, provide contractors with a list of possible subcontractors that include at least two MBEs or WBEs, if applicable, and receive at least one quote from an MBE and 1 quote from a WBE if possible. Additionally, the bill requires that the Office provide all necessary assistance to agencies in complying with the above requirement. Finally, the bill would require a Post-Execution Report to be submitted by the contracting agency to the Board of Estimates and the Office including the name and address of the selected contractor, whether the contractor is a City-certified MBE or WBE, an overview of the nature of the emergency and why emergency procurement was necessary, and a series of other items to ensure that the emergency procurement was justified and that all steps were taken to attempt to secure MBE or WBE contractors or subcontractors to the extent possible.

Other Considerations

It is important to strive for equity in all areas of City governance. While emergency procurement must take the safety and urgency of a situation into consideration, the City Administrator supports the efforts outlined in this bill to provide the best possible opportunities for MBEs and WBEs in securing such contracts. The CAO would like to offer the following amendment to the legislation in order to provide the contracting agencies ample time to submit the Post-Execution Report. We would like to increase the amount of time provided to contracting agencies for the submission of these reports from 30 days to 45 days. In § 28-51(D)(1) line 24 strike "30 days" and replace with "45 days".

Conclusion

The CAO is not able to attend the hearing for City Council Bill 21-0024, but representatives from the Mayor's Office of Government Relations will be in attendance to represent the Administration. The CAO supports the bill with the inclusion of the proposed amendment.