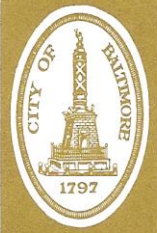


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|-------------|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| FROM | NAME & TITLE | Paul E. Taylor, Director | CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO |  |
| | AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS | Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development, 3000 Druid Park Drive, Suite 3000B, Baltimore, MD 21215 | | |
| | SUBJECT | City Council Bill 21-0033 – Imari's LGBTQ Procurement Legislation Act | | |

DATE: March 23, 2021

TO

The Honorable President and
 Members of the City Council
 City Hall, Room 400
 100 N. Holliday Street
 Baltimore, MD 21202

The Mayor's Office of Small, Minority and Women Business has been asked to comment City Council Bill 21-0033 – Imari's LGBTQ Procurement Legislation Act. This bill is for the purposes of creating a LGBTQ Business Enterprise ("LGBTQBE") Program to be administered by the Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office.

The Mayor's Office of Small, Minority and Women Business supports equal rights for all. A program like this is evidence based and require a study similar to our disparity study which is reviewed every five years. A disparity study identifies consistent patterns of discrimination in procurement. We are not in support of the legislation in its current form but welcome an investigation to identify the injured party.

As the City's primary advocate for small, local, minority and women-owned companies, the Mayor's Office of Small, Minority and Women Business looks forward to participating in upcoming work sessions and hearings on Bill 21-0033. We applaud this effort to increase opportunities and capacity for all businesses.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Paul E. Taylor