



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE
MAYOR

*100 Holliday Street, Room 250
Baltimore, Maryland 21202*

February 24, 2012

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Karen Randle, Executive Secretary
City Hall, Room 409
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

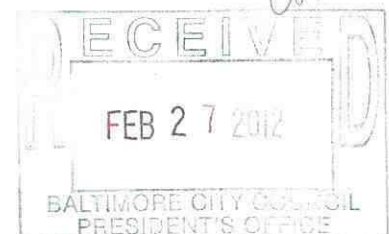
Re: City Council Bill 12-0009R – Informational Hearing – Local, Small and
Disadvantaged Business Purchasing Preferences for Baltimore

Dear President and Baltimore City Council Members:

The Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development has been asked to comment on City Council Bill 12-0009R for the purposes of City agencies concerned with purchasing and economic development to discuss how the City can best leverage its purchasing expenditures to encourage the growth of local, small and disadvantaged businesses.

The Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development hosts the annual City of Baltimore Procurement and Outreach Fair. This fair provides an opportunity for local, small, minority and women-owned businesses to network and increase procurement opportunities with the City of Baltimore.

The Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development partners with the Small Business Resource Center to produce the Baltimore City Vendor Development Program. This program provides training for local, small, minority and women-owned businesses.



Letter to Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
February 24, 2012
Page 2

The Department of Public Works, Department of Transportation and Small Business Resource Center are in discussions to reactive the Local Contractor Development Program. The Small Business Resource Center will manage this program that provides minority and women-owned construction companies the skills and knowledge to perform work on contracts that builds financial capacity.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Sincerely,



Myra Blanchard, Acting Director
Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development

cc: Deputy Mayor Kaliopé Parthemos, Deputy Mayor for Economic and Neighborhood
Development
Kumasi Vines, Special Assistant for Economic and Neighborhood Development
Angela Gibson, City Council Liaison