



July 20, 2021

To the Honorable City Council President, Nick Mosby
and Members of the Baltimore City Council
City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street, Room 409
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: CC Bill 21-0093 – Revising Whistleblower Rights and Responsibilities

Dear President and City Council Members,

The Department of Human Resources (DHR) has reviewed City Council Bill 21-0093 – Revising Whistleblower Rights and Responsibilities. The proposal updates Article 1, Subtitle 8 {Whistleblower Rights and Responsibilities} of the City Code, which defines certain terms; requires a whistleblower to report their complaint to their agency’s personnel officer or to the Office of the Inspector General if the whistleblower has a reasonable and articulable belief that the personnel officer cannot competently investigate the covered disclosure; and requires the Office of the Inspector General to give written notice of investigation or a notice of declination to the whistleblower within 30 days of receipt of the complaint. The bill also requires the Office of the Inspector General, if initiating an investigation, to send a Memorandum of Protected Activity to the whistleblower’s supervisor; requires the Office of the Inspector General to provide recommendations for action in the Office’s written findings of an investigation; and requires that the Inspector General give the written findings to the City Administrator.

DHR has reviewed the above-referenced bill and **supports** the legislation.

DHR has worked closely with the bill sponsor, the Office of Inspector General, and the Labor Commissioner to support the creation of a fair and responsive whistleblower reporting process. We defer to the Office of the Inspector General concerning the feasibility of the timelines referenced as well as the other requirements outlined. For the reasons stated above, DHR **supports** Council Bill 21-0093. For any additional questions or concerns, please contact me via email at Quinton.Herbert@baltimorecity.gov or by phone at 410-396-1563.

Sincerely,

Quinton M. Herbert, JD