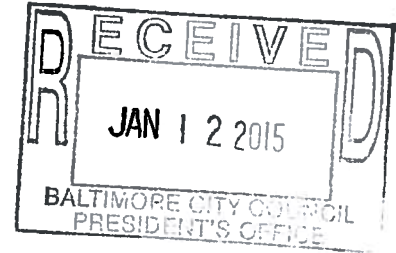




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January 9, 2015



The Honorable President &
Members of the Baltimore City Council
City Hall, Room 409
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

RE: City Council Bill 14-0464: Hotels - Human Trafficking Prevention

Dear President Young and City Council Members:

Given Baltimore's central Mid-Atlantic location along the I-95 corridor, its many prominent annual and special events, and its multi-million dollar tourism industry, it is important to evaluate the current laws on human trafficking and to identify additional means to combat such criminal activity. Downtown Partnership of Baltimore supports City Council Bill 14-0464 but suggests needed amendments to address two key sections:

Section 10-5, Hourly rentals: There are legitimate reasons for hourly rentals, including use of rooms for guest speakers who need to relax before and after events, for persons such as truckers and pilots who need a layover, and for guests who wish to add a few hours to their stay. We suggest revision to accommodate such legitimate hourly uses.

Section 10 - 6 (A), Training: We have heard from hotel operators that it is burdensome and costly to require training for staff with little or no guest interaction. We suggest eliminating this requirement.

Changes to these two elements of the bill would be prudent without compromising the bill's potency. We respectfully request the Council to work with the Maryland Hotel and Lodging Association and the Baltimore Police Department to draft the appropriate language.

Thank you for taking the initiative to assess the effectiveness of current laws relating to human trafficking -- a terrible crime with many innocent victims.

Sincerely,

Kirby Fowler
President

cc: Angela Gibson, Baltimore Council
Tom Noonan, Visit Baltimore

Faw w/ Amend