



The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holiday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council bill- 21-0047-Charter Amendment - *Dante* Barksdale Career Technology Apprenticeship.

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED) is herein reporting on City Council bill- 21-0047-Charter Amendment - *Dante* Barksdale Career Technology Apprenticeship.

The purpose of this bill is to establish a continuing, non-lapsing Dante Barksdale Career Technology Education Fund, to be used exclusively to supplement pre-apprenticeship programs and other workforce development programs; requiring a minimum monthly appropriation to this Fund; authorizing the Mayor and City Council, by ordinance, to provide for the oversight, governance, and administration of this Fund; and submitting this amendment to the qualified voters of the City for adoption or rejection.

The Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED) coordinates and directs workforce development initiatives responsive to the needs of Baltimore City employers and job seekers in order to enhance and promote the local economy. Our vision is for all city residents to maximize their career potential, and all employers to have the human resources to grow and prosper.

MOED has recently launched its first ever apprenticeship subsidy program and has hired its first apprenticeship coordinator utilizing state ARPA funds. The goal of the subsidy program is to incentivize employers to hire Baltimore City residents as an apprentice by providing \$2,500 per apprentice to supplement their training and wages. The program also supports the apprentices who may be new jobseekers, graduates from training or transitional jobs programs, and those with experience who are advancing within their companies or transitioning into new careers. In partnership with MD DOL, the goal is to register up to 100 apprentices.

MOED is willing and ready to strengthen partnership, scale or replicate existing programs, as well as to create new initiatives with the goal of connecting Baltimore City residents to apprenticeship opportunities.

MOED is support of City Council bill- 21-0047-Charter Amendment - *Dante* Barksdale Career Technology Apprenticeship Fund.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Perkins-Cohen'.

Jason Perkins-Cohen
Director