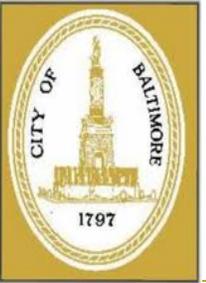


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Matthew W. Garbark, Acting Director	CITY of BALTIMORE <i>MEMO</i>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 19-0452		

July 29, 2020

TO:

Labor Committee

INTRODUCTION

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 19-0452 introduced by Council Members Henry, Dorsey, Cohen, Clarke, and Burnett.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Bill is to require the Director of Finance to provide annual reports to the Mayor and the City Council regarding certain Baltimore City employee-owned businesses; define certain terms; and to specify the contents of the required reports.

BRIEF HISTORY

This legislation would require the Director of the Department of Finance to report annually on the number of employee-owned businesses that have self-identified as such and have received City contracts, the number of contracts and their value, by City agency and type of business. This information would be compared to the number of total City contracts and their total dollar value by City agency and business type, producing a corresponding percentage of City contracts awarded to employee-owned businesses, again by City agency and type of business. The report would also be required to include the number of these businesses that requested City assistance, the number that received assistance and how it was utilized, and the type and location of the businesses. Finally, the report is to include any legislative or policy recommendations to address barriers unique to employee-owned businesses in competing for City contracts.

FISCAL IMPACT

Under the proposed legislation, the Department of Public Works would be required to provide information to the Director of Finance relevant to the participation of employee-owned businesses in agency contracts. Providing this information is not anticipated to cause the Department to incur any significant fiscal impacts. While this Department is not aware of any barriers which would specifically interfere with employee-owned businesses competing for City contracts, we do recognize that small and emerging businesses, or even seasoned businesses, that have never competed for City contracts before, may initially struggle to be successful in winning awards.

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council

The Department of Public Works established the Small Business Development Program “Growth by Design” to provide a training ground for small, minority, and local businesses and entrepreneurs to learn how to compete for City contracts, either as a prime or as a subcontractor. For a modest registration fee of \$199, this 11-week course offers a series of training modules to help companies learn more about construction and construction-related work. The courses are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (one day per week selected by applicants) and is designed to ensure participants are contract-ready for the more than \$3 billion in utility work, including: Modified Consent Decree, Sewer Rehabilitation and Replacement Projects and Capital Improvement Projects related to drinking water, stormwater and wastewater programs. This program will improve knowledge of utility construction and sewer rehabilitation work and prepares firms to compete on Baltimore City and Department of Public Works contracting opportunities. The course modules include valuable training on such topics as prequalification, OSHA training, construction accounting, bonding relationships and requirements, project management and scheduling, estimates and bidding, and contract administration. This year’s application deadline is September 1, 2020. A copy of the 2020 flyer is attached to this bill response.

An annual networking event provides small businesses with an informal opportunity to meet with prime contractors familiar with City contracting work. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual General Contractor Roundtable meeting is being held on this date (July 29) beginning at 5:30 p.m.

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION

The Department of Public Works defers to the Department of Law and Finance on City Council Bill 19-0452

Should the Committee have any questions prior to the hearing, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Marcia Collins via email at Marcia.Collins@baltimorecity.gov .



Matthew W. Garbark
Acting Director

MWG:MMC