



March 19, 2021

Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

**RE: City Council Bill 21-0038
Human-Trafficking Notice Requirements**

Dear Council President Mosby and Members of the City Council:

The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE) has reviewed Council Bill 21-0038. It is the understanding of the Agency that this bill requires city-owned and city-occupied buildings to place a notice regarding the human-trafficking prevention hotline in certain locations. Vacant buildings are exempted. The bill also confirms and clarifies related provisions.

Agency Position: Support

MONSE supports the passage of Council Bill 21-0038. The legislation builds upon a 2019 bill which required signs promoting the human-trafficking prevention hotline in all hotel rooms in the city. This requirement has already proven successful with at least one human-trafficking survivor calling the hotline after she found the number on the back of a Baltimore City hotel and accessing life-saving services. This bill is an important step in raising awareness of the hotline and available services. Even if individuals do not call the hotline immediately, it is important to plant the seed for when they are able and ready. If even one life is saved, it will be worth it.

Fiscal Note

The Bureau of the Budget and Management Research shared with MONSE an estimate that this bill will cost \$1,000 for the first year and \$500 in subsequent years. In response to questions about whether MONSE has funding available for human trafficking programs, the Agency responded that it has not anticipated absorbing the costs of this project and it is not included in the MONSE budget.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shantay A. Jackson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Shantay A. Jackson
Director, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement

cc: Sunny Schnitzer, Deputy Mayor, Public Safety
Nina Themelis, Legislative Liaison, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Natasha Mehu, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations