


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Jason Perkins-Cohen, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Mayor's Office of Employment Development 417 E. Fayette Street, Suite 468		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 16-0723 – Minority and Women's Business Enterprises – Program Reauthorization		

TO

DATE:

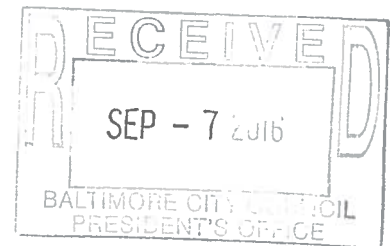
The Honorable President and Members of the City Council

September 6, 2016

Council Bill 16-0723 proposes to create a Small Local Business Enterprise (SLBE) Program to be administered by the Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office. This program requires the establishment of a Goal Setting Committee for specific industries defined as: architectural and engineering; construction; professional services; non-professional services and commodities procurement. The purpose of each committee is to lessen the inconsistency of contracts awarded by the city to large and non-local businesses in comparison to those awarded to minority and women owned businesses.

The Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED) supports the proposed creation of a SLBE program. As the operator of the City's Career Center Network, MOED is dedicated to promoting the success of MWBE businesses. The agency has a strong track record of assisting MWBE businesses with staffing needs and connecting them with resources to fund training. This bill promotes the inclusion of minority and women-owned businesses and will ultimately help Baltimore City's economic landscape by leveling the playing field for those businesses. Studies indicate that anti-discrimination efforts, specifically by the public sector, have led to an increase in the number and size of MWBEs. The bill would also aid in MOED's efforts to help more City residents enter employment. Minority-owned businesses are shown to be more likely to hire low-income and minority residents. Low-income African Americans represent the majority of the unemployed in Baltimore City. By supporting the growth of businesses that have a stronger track record of hiring African Americans, this bill would create more job opportunities for those residents and others.

cc: Andrew Smullian
Colin Tarbert
Claudia Freeland



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