


 on behalf of

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cennamo, Chief	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall (410) 396-4774		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 21-0038 – Human-Trafficking Notice Requirements – City-Owned and -Occupied Buildings		

TO

DATE:

The Honorable President and Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400

March 22, 2021

Position: Does Not Oppose

The Department of Finance is reporting on City Council Bill 21-0038, Human-Trafficking Notice Requirements—City-Owned and –Occupied Buildings, the purpose of which is to require buildings owned or occupied by the City to post notices regarding the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline in all public restrooms and entranceways. Notices must be at least 3 x 5 inches and have text in both English and Spanish.

Background

This legislation augments language in Article 15, Subtitle 42 of the City Code, which was adopted in January 2019 as a result of City Council Bill 18-0296. Currently, City Code requires notices about human-trafficking prevention be posted in adult-entertainment businesses, food service facilities, hotels, massage establishments, and construction businesses with permits from the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development. Maryland State law requires similar notices to be posted at truck stops and highway rest areas. This legislation is similar to 19-0428, Human-Trafficking Notice Requirements-City-Owned and -Occupied Buildings, which was introduced in the prior City Council term. However, this new legislation includes postings at City-owned facilities occupied by the Baltimore City Public School System and excludes postings on City-owned vacant buildings.

Thirty-six other states and the District of Columbia have laws requiring or encouraging public notices about the human trafficking hotline, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. These laws attempt to publicize information about services in areas frequented by human trafficking victims and their relatives, friends, and acquaintances.

The City faces a significant challenge in combating human trafficking. Baltimore ranked 14th out of the 100 most populous U.S. cities in the number of calls per capita to the National Human Trafficking Hotline between 2007 and 2016. Youth ages 14-17 are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking, especially those who identify as LGBTQ and/or were involved with foster care or social services, as noted in City Council Bill 18-0296, Licensing and Regulation-National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline Information Sign Posting. Foreign nationals are a substantial portion of victims, particularly for labor trafficking, and they are most frequently from Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.¹

¹ Wood, Stephen. [“The Intersection of Human Trafficking and Immigration”](#). *Bill of Health*. Harvard Law Petrie-Flom Center, 2018.

To address this issue, the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement coordinates law enforcement stakeholders and operates a grant program to fund services for victims. Additionally, this legislation addresses equitable access to information about the human trafficking hotline for these vulnerable populations by age in Spanish and expanding the number of locations where notices are posted. New locations would include recreation centers, job centers, and more buildings where City agencies provide services to youth and other at-risk individuals.

Fiscal Impact

The costs of complying with City Council Bill 21-0038 include signage printing and staff time to hang up signs. Based on these factors, Finance estimates that 500 buildings each will need signs in 12 locations, requiring an initial printing cost of \$936, with an ongoing cost of approximately \$468.

Expense	Implementation Costs	Ongoing Costs
Signage printing	\$936	\$468

Total printing costs will depend on the number of signs needed for initial implementation and ongoing replacement for signs that are damaged or removed each year. The City’s printing office estimates a cost of \$78 to print 500 signs in black and white on standard size and weight copy paper and an assumption that each building will require an average of 12 signs.

City Council Bill 21-0038 requires posting signage at all City-owned or -occupied buildings, which encompasses numerous locations. The City owns more than 500 municipal buildings, including core facilities occupied by City agency staff, recreation centers, libraries, fire and police stations, surplus schools, and water pumping stations. City staff also occupy several buildings owned by non-City entities, such as the Maryland State Archives. In addition, the legislation includes postings at City-owned facilities occupied by the Baltimore City Public School System. Based on discussions with Department of General Services (DGS), there are only three nonprofit schools that occupy DGS-managed facilities.

The legislation requires that at least one sign be posted in every public restroom and every public entranceway or main lobby. Some municipal buildings are open to the public, such as police and fire stations, though they are not primarily for public use. To generate a conservative cost estimate, Finance assumes that 500 municipal buildings will require signage. Based on a DGS report showing number of restrooms for a subset of the 53 municipal buildings it manages, Finance estimated an average of 10 public restrooms and two main entrance lobbies per building, which means a total of 6,000 signs are required at a cost of \$936. This analysis assumes that printing and posting costs will be absorbed in current resources, and that overtime costs will not be required.

Conclusion

City Council Bill 21-0038 intends to address a serious problem in Baltimore. Implementing the legislation will have annual costs and utilize existing staff time, but likely does not require an investment of additional resources.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 21-0038.

cc: Henry Raymond
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