



FROM	NAME & TITLE	Edward J. Gallagher, Director	 CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Finance Room 454 City Hall (396-4940)		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill #10-483—Public Ethics Law- Persons “Doing Business with the City”		

TO

DATE:

January 21, 2011

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

Attention: Ms. Karen Randle

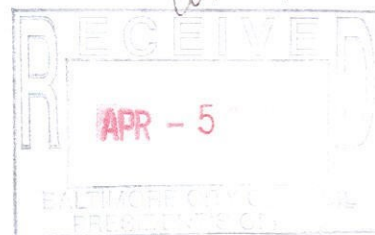
City Council Bill #10-483 has been introduced for the purpose of requiring the annual list of persons “doing business with the City” to be available in an integrated, easily searchable electronic database.

This bill, if passed, would require the Finance Director to compile and submit to the Ethics Board, in an integrated, easily searchable electronic database, an alphabetized list of all business entities that did business with the City during the preceding calendar year.

The Finance Department compiles four “collections of information” that constitute the “certified list of persons doing business with the City” and submits this information to the Ethics Board annually. The information is made up of the following four components; an integrated, electronically searchable database of the minutes of the Board of Estimates, electronic lists submitted by City agencies that are supposed to capture contracts and other transactions during the calendar year that might not appear on the Board of Estimates, a list of all vendor disbursements, and credit card data for all transactions on City-issued credit cards.

The Finance Department has no means of electronically integrating these four collections of information. It should be noted that of the 11 electronic files submitted to the Board of Ethics in Calendar Year 2009, 4 files were one-page agency reports, and 3 files were agency reports less than 10 pages. The bulk of the information is contained in files that are broken out chronologically to allow for faster PDF searching. The search feature of these PDF files allows for specific vendor names to be located quickly within the document. It is the Department’s view that the small convenience offered by electronic integration and alphabetization of these files is outweighed by the great potential cost and consumption of City resources such integration would require.

unF/Comments



The Department of Finance therefore opposes the passage of Council Bill 10-483. The Department of Finance would have no objection to the bill if it were amended to strike the requirement of an integrated, alphabetized list. With respect to the bill's proposal to post this information on the City's website, the Department has no objection and would defer to the City Law Department's response.

cc: Angela Gibson

Visit our website @ www.baltimorecity.gov

