



The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Attn: Public Safety and Government Operations Committee
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holiday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: Council Bill 21-0024 - Minority and Women's Business Utilization – Emergencies

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Mayor's Office of Employment Development (MOED) is herein reporting on City Council Bill 21-0024 - Minority and Women's Business Utilization – Emergencies. The purpose of this bill is clarifying the City's minority business and women's business contract utilization requirements for certain emergency procurements; requiring that, after an emergency procurement, the agency submit a report to the Board of Estimates and the Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to greater transparency and utilization of minority and women's business in City emergency contracting.

The Baltimore City M/WBE program is important for local hiring, particularly in communities of color. Studies have found that minority businesses are more likely to hire minority employees than non-minority owned businesses. Additionally, eligibility requirements of the program promote local hiring. Firms must be located within the Baltimore City market area and are limited to small business size standards. Local businesses are more likely to hire local employees. Additionally, small businesses have historically generated the majority of net new jobs.

The Baltimore City M/WBE program has a positive impact on local hiring and job creation for Baltimore City residents. Therefore, the Mayor's Office of Employment Development supports City Council Bill 21-0024.

Sincerely,

Jason Perkins-Cohen
Director