



Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development



April 3, 2014

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Attn: Karen Randle, Executive Secretary
City Hall, Room 409
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: City Council Bill 14-0344 – Minority and Women's Business Program – "Sunset" – Interim Extension

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development (MWBD) has been asked to comment on City Council Bill 14-0344, Minority and Women's Business Program – "Sunset" – Interim Extension. The bill extends the Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (M/WBE) Program for another three months, from April 30, 2014 to July 30, 2014. MWBD strongly supports this extension of the M/WBE program.

The M/WBE Program is being extended to allow for a thorough review of the recently completed disparity study of the City of Baltimore's contracting activities covering fiscal year 2007 through fiscal year 2012. The disparity study provides supporting data around M/WBE availability and utilization in City contracts to determine if evidence of disparity exists and continuation of a race-conscious program is warranted.

As the City's primary advocate for small, local, minority and women-owned companies, MWBD believes that the extension is in the best interest of the City and affected stakeholders. A strong M/WBE Program, as evidenced by the success of participating minority and women-owned firms, is essential to the growth and sustainability of the City's economy. This also ties in with the work of the Mayor and the recommendations of the Mayor's Advisory Council on Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises around economic inclusion strategies.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the M/WBE program extension bill. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sharon R. Pinder
Director



cc: Kaliope Parthemos, Esq., Deputy Chief for Economic and Neighborhood Development
Angela Gibson, City Council Liaison
Thomas B. Corey, Esq., Chief Solicitor, Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office