

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

GEORGE A. NILSON, City Solicitor  
101 City Hall  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

April 27, 2015

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Attn: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary  
Room 409, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

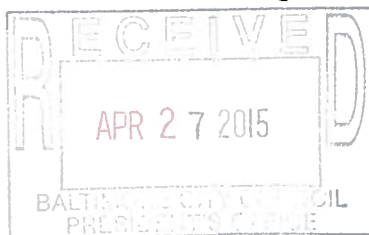
Re: City Council Bill 15-0524 – Labor and Employment – Human Trafficking  
Whistleblower Protection

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 15-0524 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill prohibits retaliation against employees of certain employers for reporting suspected human trafficking. It also defines terms and provides for penalties.

The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore have general police power, pursuant to Article II, Section 27 of the City Charter, to legislate in this area. Police power may be legitimately exercised when regulations are rationally related to preserving the public health, safety, morals or general welfare of the public. *See* City Charter, Article II, Section 47. When such justification is present, the City is entitled to “great deference” in determining how it addresses its problems. *New Orleans v. Dukes*, 427 U.S. 297, 303-304 (1976).

This bill is proper exercise of the City’s police power. Therefore, the Law Department approves it for form and legal sufficiency.



Sincerely,  
*Jennifer Landis* <sup>ecm</sup>  
Jennifer Landis  
Assistant Solicitor

cc: George Nilson, City Solicitor  
Angela C. Gibson, Mayor’s Legislative Liaison  
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division  
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor  
Victor Tervalá, Chief Solicitor

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