



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Dana Petersen Moore Director of the Office of Equity and Civil Rights Baltimore City Chief Equity Officer
DATE	April 7, 2024
SUBJECT	OECR Report on Council Bill 23-0438 Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs - Establishment

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400
Baltimore, MD 21202

DATE: April 7, 2024

OECR Position: Favorable

SUMMARY OF POSITION

The Office of Equity and Civil Rights (OECR) has reviewed and is herein reporting on City Council Bill 23-0438 regarding establishment of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs.

The bill accomplishes the following:

- Established the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
- Defines certain terms such as "Director", "Immigrant" and "Office".
- Provides for the establishment of the Office, and that it will be in the Office of the Mayor.
- Clarifies that the purpose of the Office is to promote the well-being, economic development, and integration of Baltimore City's immigrant communities.
- Establishes the powers and duties of the Office including advocating for equal treatment of immigrants and equitable access to City services, improving the services available to immigrants by advocating for changes in public policy, and serving as a liaison between the City and its immigrant communities.
- Provides for the administration, staffing, and budget of the Office.
- Requires the Office to submit an annual report on or before June 30 of each year.

The bill is pursuant to Article 1 – Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies, Sections 54-1 to 54-7, Baltimore City Code (Edition 2000).

ANALYSIS

Council Bill 23-0438 codifies in an impactful, substantive, and sustainable way the City of Baltimore's commitment to equitable treatment of all who live, work, play, learn, and visit the City. The bill creates an office that will be hyper focused on assuring that the City's growing immigrant population is positioned to receive all of the benefits and services as are available to Baltimore's non-immigrant community. In this sense the bill is another entry into Baltimore's collection of laws intended to protect basic human and civil rights.

Further, by including language mandating staff, budget allocations and clearly defined duties and powers, the bill assures that the office will have the funds it must have in order to function, and the clear mandate that it must have in order to effectuate necessary changes.

CONCLUSION

The OECR has reviewed the bill and finds no indicia of actual or implied inequity. Accordingly, the OECR supports a **favorable** committee report on Bill 23-0438.

Respectfully submitted,



Dana Petersen Moore, OECR Director