

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



MINORITY AND WOMEN'S BUSINESS  
OPPORTUNITY OFFICE

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May 9, 2013

Honorable President and Members  
of the City Council of Baltimore  
c/o Karen Randle, Executive Secretary  
Room 409, City Hall

Re: **City Council Bill 13-0215 – Minority and Women's  
Business Enterprise – Program Extension**

Dear Mr. President and City Council Members:

The Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office has been asked to comment on City Council Bill 13-0215, an ordinance to postpone, for an interim period, the automatic termination of Article 5, Subtitle 28 – The Minority and Women's Business Program. The legislation will extend the expiration date until December 31, 2013.

The City is currently having a disparity study conducted of its contracting activity for fiscal years 2007-2011. A disparity study is a compilation of evidence required to determine whether Baltimore City has a legitimate basis for maintaining a race and gender-based contracting program. The study will include statistical evidence of disparities, if any, between the availability of minority and women-owned businesses and their utilization on contracts. The study will be completed on or before September 30, 2013.

The 6-month extension proposed by the current bill will provide adequate time to complete the study, review the recommendations for legal compliance, and to draft the appropriate legislation to be presented to the City Council for action.

The Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office supports passage of the bill.

Sincerely,

Thomas B. Corey  
Chief Solicitor

TBC:smd

cc: George A. Nilson, City Solicitor  
Elena R. DiPietro, Chief Solicitor  
Angela Gibson, City Council Liaison  
Sharon Pinder, Director, MWBD

