



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE

MAYOR

*100 Holliday Street, Room 250  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202*

November 4, 2011

Honorable President and Members  
of the City Council of Baltimore  
c/o Karen Randle, Executive Secretary  
City Hall, Room 409  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202



Re: City Council Bill 11-0790  
Minority and Women's Business Enterprises – Program Extension

Dear President and Baltimore City Council Members:

The Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development has been asked to comment on City Council Bill 11-0790, for the purpose of extending the existence of the City's Minority and Women's Business Enterprise Program by 1 year, increasing the amount that the contract must reach before triggering heightened requirements for MBE/WBE participation; and generally relating to the participation of minority and women owned business entities in City contracts.

Council Bill 11-0790 expresses the City's continuing commitment to the promotion of the Minority and Women's Business Enterprises Program for an additional one year, due to expire June 30, 2013. We agree with increasing the amount before triggering heightened requirements for MBE/WBE participation from \$24,999 to \$49,999. We also agree with the general participation of MBEs and WBEs in the program to adhere to the standards and procedures that apply to every contract for which the estimated cost is \$50,000 or more.

The Minority and Women's Business Enterprises Program is a vital and necessary program to the economic health and prosperity of our City. Over the past five years the Minority and Women's Business Enterprises Program has provided contracting opportunities totaling more than \$583,355,336 in City-owned contracts and in excess of \$412,723,904, in City-assisted development projects.

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In conclusion, the Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development strongly support passage of City Council Bill 11-0790. This program extension will allow the City enough time for the Disparity Study to be completed.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Carla A. Nelson in dark ink, with the initials 'MB' written at the end of the signature.

Carla A. Nelson, Director  
Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development

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cc: The Honorable Bernard C. "Jack" Young  
The Honorable Helen Holton  
Angela Gibson, City Council Liaison, Mayor's Office  
Kaliopé Parthemos, Deputy Mayor, Economic and Neighborhood Development  
Kumasi Vines, Special Assistant, Economic and Neighborhood Development