



March 23, 2022

Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council  
City Hall, Room 400  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

**RE: City Council Bill 21-0191  
Homeless Shelters and Transitional Housing Units - Human Trafficking Notice  
Requirements**

Dear Council President Mosby and Members of the City Council:

The Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE) has reviewed Council Bill 21-0191. It is the understanding of the Agency that this bill requires homeless shelters and transitional housing units in the City of Baltimore to post information about human trafficking and the national human trafficking hotline.

**Agency Position: Support**

MONSE supports the passage of Council Bill 21-0191. The legislation builds upon a 2019 bill which required signs promoting the human trafficking prevention hotline in all hotel rooms in the city, as well as a bill passed last year requiring the hotline to be posted in city-owned and city-occupied buildings. This bill is another valuable step in raising awareness of the hotline and available services.

The intersection between unhoused individuals and human trafficking is especially important when it relates to youth. A 2016 ten city report by Loyola University New Orleans found that "[h]omeless youth are vulnerable to both sex and labor trafficking because they tend to experience a higher rate of the primary risk factors to trafficking: poverty, unemployment, a history of sexual abuse, and a history of mental health issues... Homeless youth indicated that they struggled to find paid work, affordable housing, and support systems that would help them access basic necessities. They had experienced discrimination in their jobs and in housing. A confluence of factors made the homeless youth we interviewed vulnerable to both sex and labor traffickers who preyed on their need. It also made them more likely to turn to the sex trade for survival." It is our hope that this bill will help connect vulnerable youth and adults to human trafficking services.

Thank you for allowing us to express our support today.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Wilson  
Associate Director of Policy & Research  
Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement

cc: Nina Themelis, Legislative Liaison, Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
Natasha Mehu, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
Shantay Jackson, Director, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement