



September 26, 2023

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY**

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

**Re: City Council Bill 23-0387, Minority and Women's Business Program – Reauthorization**

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Mayor's Office of Small and Minority Business Advocacy & Development (SMBA&D, formerly MWBOO) has reviewed City Council Bill 23-0387. The purpose of the bill is to reauthorize and continue the Minority and Women's Business Program. The Mayor's Office of Small and Minority Business Advocacy & Development is responsible for overseeing the City's Minority and Women's Business Program. This includes the Certification of Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) and Women's Business Enterprises (WBE), maintaining a directory of certified businesses, investigating alleged violations of the City Code, determining compliance before contracts are submitted to the Board of Estimates, setting MBE and WBE participation goals on City contracts, and establishing the annual goals for MBE and WBE participation. Beginning in Fiscal 2024, the Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office (MWBOO) merged with the Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development in the Mayor's Office of Small and Minority Advocacy and Development. This will enable our Office to better serve small, minority and women's owned businesses.

As required by the City Code, SMBA&D has conducted disparity studies assessing the City's utilization of M/WBE's. Our most recent study, completed in 2022, has found "sufficient evidence of disparity to recommend the continuation of a narrowly tailored race-and gender-based procurement program to address identified disparities". There are also several recommendations from the study which include improving payment terms on City Contracts, implementing a contract compliance software system (which is already underway), networking and procurement events and adopting annual aspirational goals among other recommendations.

**For the reasons stated above, the Mayor's Office of Small and Minority Business Advocacy & Development agrees with the adoption of City Council Bill 23-0387.**

Regards,

*Stephen J. Campbell*

Stephen J. Campbell

Deputy Director

Mayor's Office of Small and Minority Business Advocacy & Development

100 N. Holliday Street

Baltimore, MD 21202

[stephen.campbell2@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:stephen.campbell2@baltimorecity.gov)

CC: Christopher Lundy, Esq., Director SMBA&D