


MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable President and Members of the City Council
Attention: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary

FROM: William H. Cole, President and CEO 

DATE: November 15, 2017

SUBJECT: City Council Bill No. 17-0144
Discounted City Services and Equipment for Nonprofit Events

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) has been asked to comment on the City Council Bill No. 17-0144, an ordinance for the purpose of requiring that the City grant a 50% discount for City services and equipment used to support a nonprofit event.

After reviewing Bill No. 17-0144, the BDC acknowledges the importance of providing nonprofits with a discounted fee when providing city services for events that lead to economic growth and increased revenue to the City. However, with over 3,200 nonprofits in the City of Baltimore, not all of those nonprofits have missions that benefit populations in the City of Baltimore, nor contribute to the overall economic growth of the City. It is the recommendation of the BDC, that the proposed 50% discounts for city services and equipment, be limited to the following organizations:

- a) Designated Main Street programs, housed in the Mayor's Office of Minority & Women-Owned Business Development (MOMWOB)
- b) Retail Business District Business Associations
- c) Business Improvement Districts
- d) Community Associations and Neighborhood Organizations
- e) Any other qualifying organization, that operates an event that is free and open to the public.

BDC has reviewed the ordinance and supports Bill No. 17-0144, but requests that City Council note the concerns listed above.

cc: Kyron Banks