

CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW

ANDRE M. DAVIS, City Solicitor  
101 City Hall  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

February 27, 2019

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Attn: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary  
Room 409, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 19-0323 Hotels – Anti-Human Trafficking Training

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 19-0323 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would require hotels to provide all hotel employees with anti-human trafficking training on an annual basis and provides for a special effective date.

Requiring annual training ensures that the latest research and tactics regarding the prevention of human trafficking are being utilized in hotels in the City. Under Article II, Section 17 of the Baltimore City Charter, the City has the general power to regulate all businesses within its jurisdiction. This regulation is an exercise of the City's police powers found in Article II, Section 27 of the City Charter. Police powers can be legitimately exercised when the regulations are rationally related to preserving the public health, safety, morals or general welfare of the public. *See City Charter, Article II, Section 47.* When such justification is present, the City is entitled to "great deference" in determining how it addresses its problems. *New Orleans v. Dukes*, 427 U.S. 297, 303-304 (U.S. 1976).

Therefore, the Law Department approves the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ashlea H. Brown".

Ashlea H. Brown  
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Andre M. Davis, City Solicitor  
Karen Stokes, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**Jeff Amoros, Mayor's Legislative Liaison**  
**Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel**  
**Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor**  
**Victor Tervalá, Chief Solicitor**