

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 19-0150R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Pinkett, Burnett, Bullock, Cohen, Stokes, Henry, Sneed,
Schleifer, Dorsey, Ex Officio President Middleton, Councilmembers Clarke, Reisinger,
Costello

Introduced and read first time: April 15, 2019

Assigned to: Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Baltimore
Development Corporation, Department of Housing and Community Development, Mayor's
Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development, Minority and Women's Business
and Opportunity Office

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Investigative Hearing – Entities Receiving City Funds:**
3 **Are They Holding Up Their End of the Bargain?**

4 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives of certain organizations located within Baltimore that
5 both receive public funds from the City of Baltimore and lease any portion of their venue to
6 the public for catered events, the Director of the Department of Finance, the Director of the
7 Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development, the President and
8 CEO of the Baltimore Development Corporation, and other City officials responsible for the
9 development and contracting of diversity in minority small businesses and responsible for the
10 achievement of the City MBE/WBE goals, and representatives of the Baltimore minority
11 hospitality and event industry to appear before the City Council to discuss the capital funding
12 subsidies that the City of Baltimore has provided to certain organizations that lease any
13 portion of their venue to the public for catered events; to discuss why some of these
14 organizations utilize exclusive vendor lists without any minority business representation; to
15 discuss the selection criteria, if any, for the creation of the exclusive lists; and to discuss what
16 solutions, legislative or otherwise, can be implemented for the inclusion of MBE/WBE
17 businesses on the exclusive lists.

18 **Recitals**

19 Baltimore presently supports with public funds many vitally important institutions, such as
20 museums and other cultural attractions. This public support comes in the form of Payment in
21 Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreements as well as loans through
22 general obligation bonds.

23 During the hours when they are not open to the public, these institutions are often leased as
24 event venues, providing space for weddings, galas, fundraisers, and other social functions. As
25 part of leasing their event space, these institutions many times require that renters select from an
26 exclusive list of preferred vendors, for such jobs as caterers and DJs. Time after time, these
27 exclusive vendor lists do not include minority or women's businesses.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 The question becomes why Baltimore, a majority-minority city, is providing support in the
2 form of public dollars to institutions that do not, in turn, support our MBE/WBE businesses?
3 The Baltimore City Council has a vested interest in ensuring that those institutions that take
4 public support utilize that support in a fair and equitable manner.

5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
6 Council invites representatives of certain organizations located within Baltimore that both
7 receive public funds from the City of Baltimore and lease any portion of their venue to the public
8 for catered events, the Director of the Department of Finance, the Director of the Mayor's Office
9 of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development, the President and CEO of the Baltimore
10 Development Corporation, and other City officials responsible for the development and
11 contracting of diversity in minority small businesses and responsible for the achievement of the
12 City MBE/WBE goals, and representatives of the Baltimore minority hospitality and event
13 industry to appear before the City Council to discuss the capital funding subsidies that the City of
14 Baltimore has provided to certain organizations that lease any portion of their venue to the public
15 for catered events; to discuss why some of these organizations utilize exclusive vendor lists
16 without any minority business representation; to discuss the selection criteria, if any, for the
17 creation of the exclusive lists; and to discuss what solutions, legislative or otherwise, can be
18 implemented for the inclusion of MBE/WBE businesses on the exclusive lists.

19 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Chief of the
20 Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office, the President and CEO of the Baltimore
21 Development Corporation, the Director of the Baltimore City Department of Finance, the Mayor,
22 and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the Baltimore City Council.