
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
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BALTIMORE, MD 21202

July 23, 2020

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

Re: City Council Bill 19-0452 Employee-Owned Businesses - Reporting

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 19-0452 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would require the Director of Finance to provide annual reports containing certain information to the Mayor and the City Council regarding certain employee-owned businesses located in Baltimore City.

The City Council has an inherent power to investigate "in furtherance of its legislative function." 4 McQuillin Mun. Corp. § 13:7. The City Council may "exercise within the limits of Baltimore City all the power commonly known as the Police Power to the same extent as the State has or could exercise that power within the limits of Baltimore City," and may "pass any ordinance, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter or the laws of the State, which it may deem proper in the exercise of any of the powers, either express or implied, enumerated in this Charter, as well as any ordinance as it may deem proper in maintaining the peace, good government, health and welfare of Baltimore City." City Charter, Art. II, §§ 27,47.

The Law Department has concerns over the efficacy of this investigative bill, as the City cannot compel the private businesses to provide the information requested. The Law Department defers to Finance as to the accessibility of the information to the Director.

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

Very truly yours,

Ashlea Brown
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Dana P. Moore, Acting City Solicitor
Matthew Stegman, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Caylin Young, Director of Legislative Services
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor
Victor Tervala, Chief Solicitor
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor