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|------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FROM | NAME & TITLE          | Robert Cename, Budget Director                                                                         | CITY of<br>BALTIMORE<br><b>MEMO</b> |  |
|      | AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS | Bureau of the Budget and Management Research<br>Room 432, City Hall (410) 396-4774                     |                                     |                                                                                     |
|      | SUBJECT               | City Council Bill 19-0428 – Human-Trafficking Notice Requirements – City-Owned and -Occupied Buildings |                                     |                                                                                     |

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and  
Members of the City Council  
City Hall, Room 400

October 9, 2020

**Position: Does Not Oppose**

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 19-0428, Human-Trafficking Notice Requirements—City-Owned and –Occupied Buildings, the purpose of which is to require buildings owned or occupied by the City to post notices regarding the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline in all public restrooms and entranceways. Notices must be at least 3 x 5 inches and have text in both English and Spanish

**Background**

This legislation augments language in Article 15, Subtitle 42 of the City Code, which was adopted in January 2019 as a result of City Council Bill 18-0296. City Code requires notices about human-trafficking prevention be posted in adult-entertainment businesses, food service facilities, hotels, massage establishments, and construction businesses with permits from the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development. Maryland state law requires similar notices to be posted at truck stops and highway rest areas.

Twenty-eight other states and the District of Columbia have laws requiring or encouraging public notices about the human trafficking hotline, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, although they generally do not mandate posting in public buildings. These laws attempt to publicize information about services in areas frequented by human trafficking victims and their relatives, friends, and acquaintances.

The City faces a significant challenge in combating human trafficking. Baltimore ranked 14<sup>th</sup> out of the 100 most populous U.S. cities in the number of calls per capita to the National Human Trafficking Hotline between 2007 and 2016. Youth ages 14-17 are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking, especially those who identify as LGBTQ and/or were involved with foster care or social services, as noted in City Council Bill 18-0296. Foreign nationals are a substantial portion of victims, particularly for labor trafficking, and they are most frequently from Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

To address this issue, the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice coordinates law enforcement stakeholders and operates a grant program to fund services for victims. Additionally, this legislation addresses equitable access to information about the human trafficking hotline for these vulnerable populations by age in Spanish and expanding the number of locations where notices are posted. New locations would include recreation centers, job centers, and more buildings where City agencies provide services to youth and other at-risk individuals.

## Fiscal Impact

| Expense | First Year Cost | Annual Cost |
|---------|-----------------|-------------|
| Signage | \$ 800          | \$ 400      |

The costs of complying with City Council Bill 19-0428 include printing costs and staff time to hang up signs. The City owns more than 500 municipal buildings, including core facilities occupied by City agency staff, recreation centers, libraries, fire and police stations, surplus schools, and water pumping stations. The legislation requires that at least one sign be posted in every public restroom and every public entranceway or main lobby. To generate a conservative cost estimate, we will assume that 500 municipal buildings require signage, with an estimated average of 10 public restrooms and two main entrance lobbies per building. Based on these factors, Finance estimates that 500 buildings will each need signs in 12 locations, requiring an initial printing cost of about \$800. Perhaps half the signs would get damaged or removed each year, necessitating an annual cost of \$400. Total printing costs will depend on the number of signs. Printing costs and staff time to hang signs can be absorbed in the current budget for the Department of General Services (DGS).

### Other Considerations

This legislation includes numerous locations since it applies to properties that are owned or occupied by the City and its employees. The City owns more than 500 municipal buildings, including core facilities occupied by City agency staff, recreation centers, libraries, fire and police stations, surplus schools, and water pumping stations. Some City staff occupy several buildings owned by non-City entities, such as the Maryland State Archives, and some municipal buildings are open to the public, such as police and fire stations, though they are not primarily for public use. In addition, the City owns about vacant buildings, which are not public use buildings. The Department of Finance assumes that the City-owned vacant buildings will not require signage, since they are not public use buildings, and did not include them in the fiscal impact analysis.

### Conclusion

City Council Bill 19-0428 intends to address a serious problem in Baltimore. Implementing the legislation will have annual costs and utilize existing staff time, but likely does not require an investment of additional resources.

**For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 19-0428.**

cc: Henry Raymond  
Matthew Stegman  
Nina Themelis