

BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
Mayor
250 City Hall, 100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

November 16, 2020

The Honorable Brandon Scott, President
Baltimore City Council
Attn: Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 20-0543 – COVID-19 Employee Retention

Dear President Scott:

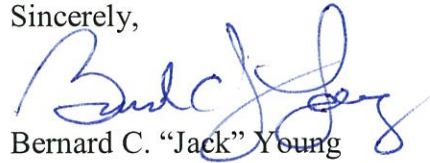
After careful consideration and for the reasons stated in this letter, I am vetoing City Council Bill 20-0543 in accordance with Article IV, Section 5 of the Baltimore City Charter.

While I appreciate the intent of this bill and agree that the City needs to continue doing everything it can to help our service workers weather the pandemic, I have concern that this bill will put additional undue burdens on hotel employers that are already struggling due to COVID-19. Though this bill is an emergency measure, it remains in effect until December of 2022. It is not clear whether or if employers covered by this bill can hire from outside the list of employees provided by an incumbent employer during their first six months of operation even in the event the employer exhausts the list. It is also not clear the extent to which individuals not connected directly to the employer or employee can request enforcement actions. Finally, there is not cap on the penalties and sanctions that can be imposed under the bill. The potential for excessive penalties, rather

than protecting workers, may discourage some employers from doing business in Baltimore at all.

For the above stated reasons, I have vetoed City Council Bill 20-0543.

Sincerely,



Bernard C. "Jack" Young
Mayor

CC: Honorable Members of the City Council
Matthew Stegman, Mayor's Legislative Liaison
Michael Huber, Chief of Staff to the Council President
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Victor Tervalva, Chief Solicitor
Natawna Austin, Chief Clerk