



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Alice Kennedy, Acting Housing Commissioner

Date: March 16, 2021

Re: City Council Bill 21-0038 Human-Trafficking Notice Requirements - Modifications

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 21-0038 for the purpose of requiring city-owned or -occupied buildings to place a notice regarding the human-trafficking prevention hotline in certain locations; deleting an obsolete reference to the “Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation”; providing that certain businesses may obtain the required human-trafficking notices from the United States Department of Homeland Security’s Blue Campaign website; and conforming and clarifying related provisions.

If enacted, City Council Bill 21-0038 would make changes to Article 15 - Licensing and Regulation, Subtitle 42 - Human-Trafficking Notice Requirements, of the Baltimore City Code. The Legislation would require that Human-Trafficking prevention notices be posted on city owned and -occupied buildings. DHCD recommends collaboration on the implementation of this legislation with the Department of General Services (DGS). DGS has management responsibilities for most utilized, City-owned buildings. To comply with this legislation DGS and other City agencies with properties under their control, would be required to post at least one sign in any location where; posting is required by Subtitle 4, Part 5 of the State Labor and Employment Article, public restrooms and public entranceways or main lobby to the building or portion occupied by the City.

DHCD appreciates the language to exempt vacant buildings, which clarifies that this legislation only applies to City-owned and occupied buildings and not all City-owned buildings. DHCD supports the sponsors efforts to provide information to the general public to aid in the objectives of identifying, preventing and reporting potential human trafficking by providing signage in City owned and occupied buildings.

DHCD **supports** the passage of City Council Bill 21-0038.

AK/sm

cc: Ms. Nina Themelis, *Mayor’s Office of Government Relations*

Brandon M. Scott, Mayor • Alice Kennedy, Acting Housing Commissioner

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