


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Honorable Bill Henry, Comptroller of Baltimore City	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Office of the Comptroller, Room 204, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	21-0033 Imari's LGBTQ Procurement Preference Act		

DATE:

TO

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

March 23, 2021

Position: Defer to Minority and Women's Business Opportunity Office (MWBOO)

The Comptroller's Office is reporting on City Council Bill 21-0033 Imari's LGBTQ Procurement Preference Act. The purpose of this bill is to create a LGBTQ Business Enterprise ("LGBTQBE") Program that would establish certain requirements for utilizing LGBTQ vendors for City Contracts; mandate annual reports; and set certain penalties on non-compliant vendors.

Background

In 2018, former Mayor Catherine Pugh issued Executive Order 2018-02 to direct City agencies to implement procurement policies and practices that recognized LGBTQ-owned businesses. This order directed procurement to, essentially, replicate the processes used to identify Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) and Women's Business Enterprises (WBE) when soliciting proposals, qualifications, or other information about suppliers and contractors.

The Comptroller's Office prepares the agenda for the weekly Board of Estimates meetings. During preparation they review MBE/WBE status and compliance for agenda items. After reviewing memos and agenda that have come to the Board in the past two years, LGBTQBE vendors are not explicitly certified in procurement practices.

Furthermore, the Office is familiar with the extensive and complex procedures that regulate the MBE/WBE program as well as MWBOO's ongoing disparity study. As the administrating agency, MWBOO will have to facilitate a new program and related new disparity study.

Conclusion

This legislation seeks to establish a program to support LGBTQ firms in Baltimore City. The Comptroller's Office supports the bill's intention to codify Executive Order 2018-02, but defers to MWBOO to comment on program implementation.

For the reasons stated above, the Comptroller's Office defers to MWBOO.