

CITY OF BALTIMORE
ORDINANCE _____
Council Bill 21-0038

Introduced by: Councilmembers Burnett, Cohen, Dorsey, Porter, Middleton, Bullock
Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2021
Assigned to: Public Safety and Government Operations Committee

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Council action: Adopted
Read second time: April 5, 2021

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING

Human-Trafficking Notice Requirements – Modifications

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.

BY repealing and re-ordaining, with amendments

Article 15 - Licensing and Regulation
Sections 42-1(g) and 42-2
Baltimore City Code
(Edition 2000)

BY adding

Article 15 - Licensing and Regulation
Section 42-2.1
Baltimore City Code
(Edition 2000)

SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

Baltimore City Code

Article 15. Licensing and Regulation

Subtitle 42. Human-Trafficking Notice Requirements

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Underlining indicates matter added to the bill by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from existing law by amendment.

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1 **§ 42-1. Definitions.**

2 (g) *Person.*

3 (1) *IN GENERAL.*

4 “Person” means:

5 (I) [(1)] an individual;

6 (II) [(2)] a partnership, firm, association, corporation, or other entity of any kind;
7 or

8 (III) [(3)] a receiver, trustee, guardian, personal representative, fiduciary, or
9 representative of any kind.

10 (2) *EXCLUSIONS.*

11 “PERSON” DOES NOT INCLUDE, UNLESS OTHERWISE EXPRESSLY PROVIDED, A
12 GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY OR AN INSTRUMENTALITY OR UNIT OF A GOVERNMENTAL
13 ENTITY.

14 **§ 42-2. Human trafficking prevention signs to be posted.**

15 (a) *Applicability.*

16 The requirements of this section apply only to:

17 (1) adult-entertainment businesses;

18 (2) food service facilities;

19 (3) hotels; and

20 (4) permit holders.

21 (b) *In general.*

22 (1) The owner of any business described in subsection (a) of this section must post a sign
23 that states the following:

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1 “REPORT HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

2 National Human Trafficking Resource Center

3 **Call 1-888-373-7888 or text “BeFree” (233733)**

4 CALL FOR HELP IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW:

- 5 • is being forced to have sex without consent
6 • has had an ID or documents taken away
7 • is being threatened by or is in debt to an employer
8 • wants to leave a job but cannot freely do so

9 TOLL-FREE ‡ 24/7 ‡ CONFIDENTIAL ‡ INTERPRETERS AVAILABLE

10 This sign is required by Baltimore City law”

11 (2) The sign must:

- 12 (i) be at least 3 by 5 inches in size;
13 (ii) contain the text required under paragraph (1) of this subsection in English and
14 Spanish; and
15 (iii) draw attention to the phone number of the National Human Trafficking
16 Resource Center Hotline by showing the phone number in bold type.

17 (3) The owner of a business as provided in subsection (a) of this section may meet the
18 requirements of this subsection by creating their own signs, using a font size of not
19 less than 30 points for the hotline numbers and a font size of not less than 12 points
20 for the body text, or using copies of the signs created and made available online by
21 [the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation under Maryland
22 Business Regulation Article § 15-207 if the signs are altered to indicate that they are
23 required by Baltimore City law rather than State law] THE UNITED STATES
24 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY’S BLUE CAMPAIGN WEBSITE.

25 (c) *Sign location.*

- 26 (1) Adult-entertainment businesses and food service facilities must post a sign required
27 under this section in a conspicuous place in clear view of the public and employees
28 where similar notices are customarily posted and on the back of the door at the
29 entrance to each restroom.
30 (2) Permit holders must post the sign required under this section in a conspicuous place
31 in clear view of the public.
32 (3) Hotels must post the sign required under this section on the back of each hotel room
33 entry door.

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1 (d) *Hotels to certify.*

2 Beginning in calendar year 2020, any person who owns or operates a hotel within the City
3 must annually certify to the Housing Commissioner, in the form and manner required by
4 the Department of Housing and Community Development, no later than December 31 of
5 each year, that the hotel is in compliance with this section.

6 **§ 42-2.1. CITY-OWNED OR -OCCUPIED BUILDINGS.**

7 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

8 EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION, IN EACH CITY-OWNED OR -OCCUPIED
9 BUILDING, AT LEAST 1 SIGN DESCRIBED IN § 42-2(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE MUST BE POSTED IN
10 EACH:

- 11 (1) LOCATION WHERE THE NOTICE REQUIRED BY SUBTITLE 4 {"WAGES AND HOURS"},
12 PART V {"ENFORCEMENT"} OF THE STATE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE IS
13 POSTED;
- 14 (2) PUBLIC RESTROOM; AND
- 15 (3) PUBLIC ENTRANCEWAY OR MAIN LOBBY TO THE BUILDING OR PORTION OF THE
16 BUILDING OCCUPIED BY THE CITY.

17 ~~(B) FACILITIES OCCUPIED BY THE BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.~~

18 ~~(1) THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BALTIMORE~~
19 ~~CITY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS, MAY DEVELOP ALTERNATE, AGE-~~
20 ~~APPROPRIATE HUMAN TRAFFICKING NOTICE SIGNAGE FOR USE IN CITY-OWNED~~
21 ~~FACILITIES OCCUPIED BY THE BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.~~

22 ~~(2) AT A MINIMUM, ANY ALTERNATE SIGN DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL~~
23 ~~MEET THE FORM REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN § 42-2(B)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE.~~

24 ~~(C) EXCEPTIONS.~~

25 ~~THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO ANY CITY-OWNED BUILDING THAT IS VACANT.~~

26 (B) EXCEPTIONS.

27 THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO:

- 28 (1) ANY CITY-OWNED BUILDING THAT IS VACANT OR NOT IN REGULAR USE; OR
- 29 (2) ANY CITY-OWNED BUILDING THAT IS OCCUPIED BY THE BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC
30 SCHOOL SYSTEM.

31 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance
32 are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior
33 Ordinance.

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1 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30th day
2 after the date it is enacted.

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Certified as duly passed this _____ day of _____, 20__

President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to His Honor, the Mayor,
this _____ day of _____, 20__

Chief Clerk

Approved this _____ day of _____, 20__

Mayor, Baltimore City