



6240 Old Dobbin Lane ■ Suite 110 ■ Columbia, MD 21045

October 30, 2017

The Honorable Jon Weinstein
Howard County Council Chair
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE: County Resolution 121

Dear Councilman Weinstein:

In the summer of 2016, Council Resolution (CR) 181 was introduced as part of efforts to review County procurement practices, awards, and their impact on the minority business community. The Chamber submitted favorable written testimony in support of this resolution. Since that time, the Equal Business Opportunity Commission (EBOC), the task force charged with reviewing current policies, has completed its work and most recently submitted a set of recommendations for the County Council and the administration's consideration.

During this time, the County Executive introduced CR121 which would amend the current EBOC policy to include Veteran business owners. Both County Executive Allan Kittleman and County Councilmember Dr. Calvin Ball are to be commended for their efforts to further Veteran, Women, Minority, and Disabled business efforts in Howard County. Upon review of both the EBOC recommendations and CR121, the Howard County Chamber believes it would be best if the County delayed the revision of the current EBOC ordinance.

It is our opinion that the County can have more robust Veteran and Minority business policy if it were first to conduct a disparity study and implement the recommendations from the EBOC report. In conducting a disparity study, the administration would have a complete analysis as it relates to current County expenditures with various subgroups, thereby allowing itself to develop more data driven goals and initiatives. In addition, the County could determine whether it is more appropriate to have an amended EBOC policy to include Veterans or to have a separate Veteran and Service Disabled Veterans policy.

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The Chamber has several other ideas and suggestions it would be happy to discuss on the fulfillment of this effort. In the interim, we ask that you consider deferring the amendment of the current EBOC policy until the entire procurement process can be reviewed and assessed.

We thank you again for your consideration and attention to this most important initiative. For questions and comments, I can be reached directly at [443-878-1234](tel:443-878-1234).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leonardo McClarty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Leonardo McClarty, CCE
President, Howard County Chamber

CC: Howard County Council
The Honorable Allan Kittleman, Howard County Executive
Howard County Chamber Board of Directors