

Sayers, Margery

From: Leonardo McClarty <lmccarty@howardchamber.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 4:35 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Veterans Support_01.26.18
Attachments: Veterans Support_01.26.18.pdf

Howard County Council Members:

Please find attached a letter from the Chamber stating our support for CR-12 and CB8

Thanks

Leonardo McClarty

January 31, 2018

The Honorable Mary Kay Sigaty
Howard County Council Chair
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE: CR 12-2018 and CB8-2018

Dear Council Chair Sigaty:

Last fall, the County Executive introduced CR121 which would amend the current Equal Business Opportunity Commission policy to include Veteran business owners. While the Chamber found County Executive Allan Kittleman's efforts commendable for furthering Veteran, Women, Minority, and Disabled business efforts in Howard County, the Chamber had several reservations with the policy as written. The Chamber subsequently issued the opinion that we thought it best if the County delayed the revision of the current EBOC ordinance. The administration subsequently withdrew the legislation and has since studied the issue further.

The Council now has before it a revised resolution and ordinance that addresses many of the concerns expressed before. The Chamber still believes 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. That aside, we support the current resolution and bill before you as it separates veteran and minority procurement concerns.

The Veteran-Owned Business Program is a goal oriented program which should expand opportunities for veteran owned businesses. Not to mention, the program is merit based as there are no set asides or price preferences. Under this program; outreach, counseling, and assistance will also be provided to Veteran owned businesses. For these reasons, the Chamber extends our support to this legislation and would like to see it receive favorable votes.

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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