

**Chief of the Minority and
Women's Business Opportunity
Office Response**

Case # 20-0020-I

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Tamara Brown, Chief	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Law, MWBOO Room 131, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	MWBOO Response OIG Case - #20-0020-1		

TO

Honorable Andre M. Davis
City Solicitor

DATE: January 27, 2020

In response to the OIG report for case number 20-0020-I, the Minority and Women’s Business Opportunity Office (MWBOO) is recommending that all contract reviews for MBE and WBE compliance currently conducted by the Bureau of Procurement (BOP), transition to this office.

The current compliance review process is in fact unreliable and repetitive, as noted in the OIG report. The method that the BOP engages in when conducting reviews for MBE and WBE compliance prior to a board action tends to cause delays that have impacted City operations on numerous occasions. Additionally, the manner in which the compliance reviews are conducted is a violation of Article 5, Subtitle 28 of the City Code.

While MWBOO is not adequately staffed or funded to support the efforts required to conduct routine compliance on all contracts within the BOP, we still strongly feel that the shift is necessary and in the best interest of the City.

We appreciate the thorough investigation that the Office of the Inspector General conducted that has shed light on a number of critical issues. Ultimately it is the responsibility of this office to enforce MBE and WBE compliance on City contracts, therefore, we are prepared to work diligently to ensure that all laws applicable to this program are followed.

We hope that you will consider and support this recommendation.

Tamara Brown

Tamara Brown, Chief
The Minority and Women’s Business Opportunity Office

cc: Dana P. Moore, Deputy Solicitor