



BWIB Memberandum

December 14, 2007

- **Final 2007 Meeting of the BWIB Youth Council Held**

Earlier this week, the BWIB's Youth Council held its final session of the 2007 calendar year. At this meeting, council members learned more about two initiatives presently in development. First, the Youth Council's Drop-out Prevention & Recovery Task Force presented its 2008 Action Plan. This document outlines the various steps that will lead to the creation of a citywide campaign for attacking the high school drop-out crisis, with the ultimate goal of improving the graduation rate of Baltimore's public school students. Council members also learned about an initiative being coordinated by the Mayor's Office, which would result in the creation of a Citywide Youth Strategy. A kick-off meeting, consisting of relevant stakeholders from throughout the city, will take place later this month. Current plans target a release date for this comprehensive strategy by mid-year 2008.

- **Mayor Dixon Names YouthWorks as One of Her Six Priorities**

As part of her inaugural address last week, Mayor Sheila Dixon outlined six policy initiatives that her administration will actively work to achieve. The third of these was to dramatically expand the City's successful YouthWorks program. As the Mayor indicated, her goal is simply "to ensure that every young person who wants a summer job gets a summer job." At this week's full board meeting of the BWIB, members in attendance heard about the Mayor's plan to seek the increased engagement of Baltimore's business community, along with our faith-based, community-based, philanthropic, and education partners, in support of YouthWorks. A greater number of employers who express a willingness to support this valuable program – either through a direct financial commitment or through offering to place youth in jobs within their companies – will help the City of Baltimore achieve this worthy goal.

- **Youth Academic/Occupational Services RFP Process Underway**

An RFP seeking organizations to provide academic and occupational services for Baltimore's youth population (utilizing Workforce Investment Act (WIA) youth-designated funds) was released in September of this year. Optimally, interested applicants will demonstrate how they could assist economically disadvantaged youth ages 16-21 to achieve major educational attainment, skill development, and employment. Services must be designed and delivered in a manner that maintains focus on and is relevant to career development, job placement, and educational attainment. Proposals for consideration must be received no later than December,

21, 2007. After this deadline, reviewers from BWIB/MOED will be actively engaged in the review and evaluation of the prospective awardees for those funds available under this program.

- **Port of Baltimore Begins Implementation of TWIC Security Cards**

As a consequence of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002, more than one million individuals, who work with unescorted access at the nation's 361 ports, are now subject to heightened security/background checks. By no later than September 2008, all on-site port workers, as well as truckers who access ports for deliveries, must pass thorough background checks to receive the required *Transportation Worker Identification Credential* (TWIC) needed for access to all ports. Starting in November of this year, the Port of Baltimore – in concert with the Coast Guard – began the process of screening the estimated 25,000 workers who will need TWICs to maintain access to port facilities. A clear workforce challenge associated with this process is the fact that conviction or incarceration for offenses unrelated to national security could disqualify someone from receiving a TWIC. There is, however, an appeals and waiver process for individuals who find themselves in this predicament.

- **State to Consider Legislation to Facilitate BRAC Development**

A recent Baltimore Examiner article (12/11/07) notes that Governor O'Malley plans to introduce three pieces of legislation that will ideally strengthen the state's ability to capitalize on BRAC. One bill proposes the creation of a special higher education fund that would provide resources to postsecondary institutions in responding to the BRAC-related educational needs of new residents. Another seeks the creation of a series of new economic development tax credits that would spur developers to provide office space for the estimated 40,000 to 60,000 workers expected as a consequence of BRAC business growth. Lastly, the O'Malley Administration hopes to broaden the ability of local jurisdictions to negotiate payments in lieu of taxes with developers who construct new facilities on federal land associated with the expansion of selected Maryland military bases.

- **Dates of Interest**

Monday, Jan. 7th (12:30 pm) BWIB Public Policy Committee Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 8th (2:30 pm) – Training Session: Youth Academic/Occupational Services RFP
Thursday, Jan. 9th – Opening Day, 2008 Maryland General Assembly Session
Tuesday, Mar. 12th (7:30 am) – BWIB Full Board Meeting
Wednesday, Mar. 13th (7:45 am) – BWIB Youth Council Meeting

Stay tuned for announcements related to the initial 2008 meetings of the various BWIB committees and task forces!!

****If you would like additional information regarding any of the issues or events discussed throughout this publication, please feel free to contact Jeff Smith.****