

BALTIMORE CITY ETHICS BOARD
626 City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Phone: 410-396-4730 Fax: 410-396-8483
<http://ethics.baltimorecity.gov>

**GOVERNMENTAL/CHARITABLE SOLICITATIONS –
APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL**

NAME OF BENEFITTED PROGRAM / CHARITY: Our Victorious City Scholarship Fund

PART A. SPONSORING AGENCY

Name Office of Councilman Zeke Cohen

Address 100 Holliday St. Baltimore, MD 21202

Contact Person / Coordinator Joshua Thomson

Telephone (410) 396-4821 Email joshua.thomson@baltimorecity.gov

PART B. PURPOSE OF PROPOSED SOLICITATION

I. Identify the specific governmental or charitable program, function, or activity for which solicitations will be made:

Our Victorious City Scholarship Fund

II. Describe the specific purposes to which contributions and other receipts will be applied:

Contributions will be used by Our Victorious City to award scholarships to students who are a victim to violence.

III. Select the appropriate range for the aggregate value of the contributions sought:

- \$500,000 or more
- between \$150,000 and \$500,000
- between \$50,000 and \$150,000
- between \$5,000 and \$50,000
- less than \$5,000

PART C. CITY ENDORSEMENT

By: ___ Board of Estimates ___ Designee of B/E: _____

Date and Manner of Endorsement: _____

Attach Copy of Written Endorsement

PART D. WHEN AND HOW SOLICITATION TO BE CONDUCTED

I. Proposed starting date of solicitation efforts: Immediately Upon Approval

II. Proposed ending date of solicitation efforts: August 31st, 2020

III. Describe the categories of persons to be solicited and by whom and how those solicitations will be made:

This campaign will target individuals, organizations, and businesses with a history of involvement providing a variety of resources that promote social and racial injustice within Baltimore City. They will be contacted through individuals, groups, emails, calls, internet and social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc).
We would like to expand our target to other businesses that contribute to strengthening positive relationships among the many communities in our city.

IV. Identify all *public servants* who will be soliciting contributions:

Councilman Zeke Cohen and staff

V. Describe measures to be taken to ensure that the solicitation (i) will be directed at a broad range of donors and (ii) will not specially target *controlled donors*:

Potential donors will be solicited based on their history of participating in activities related to this specific campaign or have continued to or have interests in similar causes to impact positive change for Baltimore communities. There potential donors who are controlled donors will not be targeted or singled out in any way and will be solicited, if at all, in the same manner as other potential donors.

VI. Describe measures to be taken to avoid any suggestion that contributors might receive special access or favored treatment from any agency or public servant of the City:

The Councilmember's office will be seeking solicitations on behalf of Our Victorious City. The purpose of these funds will be made clear to those donating and donors will be informed that they will not gain favors or special access.

PART E. PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR CUSTODY, ACCOUNTING, AND DISTRIBUTION OF DONATIONS

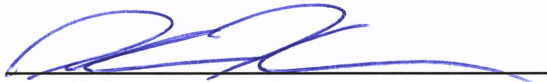
Name Our Victorious City
Address 420 Hillen Road
Towson, MD 21286
Telephone (443) 563-8180

PART F. SIGNATURE AND AFFIRMATION

I affirm under the penalties of perjury that the contents of this Application and of all accompanying attachments are true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

Date: 8/29/19

FOR: Office of Councilman Zeke Cohen
{Type/Print Name of Sponsoring Agency}

BY: 
{Signature}

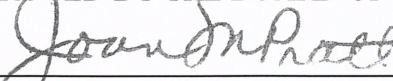
Joshua Thomson, Chief of Staff
{Type/Print Name and Title}

100 Holliday St. Baltimore, MD 21202
{Type/Print Office Address}

410-396-4821
{Type/Print Office Telephone Number}

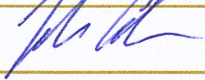

joshua.thomson@baltimorecity.gov
{Type/Print Email Address}

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF ESTIMATES


Clerk

SEP 11 2019

Date

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Joshua Thomson, Chief of Staff 	CITY OF BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Office of Councilman Zeke Cohen's RM 522, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	Government/Charitable Solicitation Application		

DATE: 08/29/2019

TO To Honorable Clerk of the Board
of Board of Estimates
Room 204, City Hall

Re: Government/Charitable Solicitation Application

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE BOARD OF ESTIMATES:

The Board is requested to endorse a Governmental/Charitable Application for submission to the Board of Ethics of Baltimore City to allow Councilman Zeke Cohen and staff to solicit donations for Our Victorious City, a non-profit organization, to provide scholarships to benefit victims of violence. The period of the campaign, pending board approval, will be effective upon Board approval to August 31st, 2020.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF MONEY:

No general funds are involved in this transaction.

BACKGROUND AND EXPLANATION:

Donations will be solicited from Baltimore businesses, civic leaders, the foundation community and the general population. A potential donor list will be comprised of individuals and corporate entities that contribute to the economic, social, and cultural vitality of Baltimore City. Most of the individual and corporate entities fitting that description are not controlled donors. However, those potential donors who are controlled donors with respect to the City Council or the Board of Estimates will not be targeted or singled out in any way and will be solicited, if at all, in the same manner as the other potential donors.

Our Victorious City, founded by Victory Swift in memory of her late son Victorious Swift, seeks to end violence in Baltimore City. To do this, the organization offers scholarships for students who are victims of violence. The organization has also partnered with Tina Giles Forrester, the widow of James Forrester, to create a scholarship in his honor for young people interested in music. This will be the 2nd year our office will partner with Our Victorious City to continue to raise money to provide scholarships for young people Councilman Cohen seeks to solicit donations on behalf of Our Victorious City to better support young people impacted by violence throughout Baltimore.

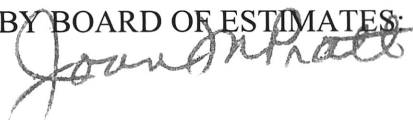
Baltimore City Code Article 8, Section 6-26, prohibits solicitation or facilitating the solicitation of a gift. An exception was enacted in 2005 to permit certain solicitations that are for the benefit of an official governmental program or activity, or a City endorsed charitable function or

activity. Ethics Regulation 96.26B sets out the standards for approval, which includes the requirement that the program, function or activity to be benefited and the proposed solicitation campaign must be endorsed by the Board of Estimates or its designee.

MBE/MWE PARTICIPATION:

N/A

APPROVED BY BOARD OF ESTIMATES:



CLERK

DATE

SEP 11 2019