

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, President

BALTIMORE



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City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake Calls for Public Hearing on Heroin Treatment

President to request expansion of City's Buprenorphine availability

Baltimore, MD (March 26, 2007) – Baltimore City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake is calling for the Baltimore Commissioner of Health to report at a public hearing the status, success, and future plans for buprenorphine treatment in Baltimore City.

“Bup,” as the heroin treatment drug buprenorphine is commonly referred, is available in Baltimore City. The City Health Department has been training physicians and making the treatment available to heroin addicts, which comprise about 70% of all drug treatment admissions in Baltimore. The treatment, which is markedly different from methadone in that it can not cause an overdose, effectively shuts down the brain’s ability to experience heroin’s addictive effects.

Through a formal resolution that will be introduced on Monday, Council President Rawlings-Blake hopes to educate and inform the public of this opportunity to take back our neighborhoods from an addiction that is out of control.

“This is a treatment that can literally be prescribed by a doctor,” notes President Rawlings-Blake. “Thousands of heroin addicts throughout our City are begging for a way out, and it is our obligation to point them in the direction of recovery.”

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