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Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, President

# BALTIMORE



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## City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake Tackles Violent Crime in Baltimore

*Council President Asks Agency Directors for Specific Plans to Work Together*

**Baltimore, MD** (April 18, 2007) – Baltimore City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake is calling for all City servants to directly address the violent crime epidemic in Baltimore. Today, the Council President sent a memo to City Agency Directors asking them to outline specific plans to prioritize the reduction of violent crime in their FY2008 budget proposals. The Council President is also calling for a public hearing where three City Agencies will present a cooperative plan to address the issue.

“During the upcoming budget process, please be prepared to specifically outline the extent to which your agency’s budget proposal prioritizes the reduction of violent crime in Baltimore,” the memo reads. “The budget proposals of each agency will be examined with this priority as its main concern. Baltimore did not find itself in the midst of a violent crime epidemic overnight, nor will we resolve it that way. However, by working together toward a common goal, we will ensure that the priorities of our government are the same as those of our citizens.”

In addition to utilizing the upcoming budget process to address the rise in violent crime, the Council President intends to introduce a resolution at Monday’s City Council meeting calling for a public hearing with the City Police Commissioner, Health Commissioner, and the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks. The hearing will call for these officials to specifically outline a single strategy in which each agency will interact and coordinate with the others to reduce violent crime in Baltimore.

“These City agencies each conduct programs targeting our City’s youth, aimed at reducing crime in our City,” noted President Rawlings-Blake. “But very little of that work is done together. In an effort to address this issue efficiently and comprehensively, I am requesting that a formal strategy of cooperation be presented to the Council and implemented by these agencies. Targeting the issue of violent crime can only be effective when it’s done with one voice.”

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