

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, President

BALTIMORE



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City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake Announces Emergency Plan to Address Police Staffing Crisis

Baltimore, MD (May 31, 2007) – Baltimore City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake announced an emergency plan to address the staffing shortage of Baltimore’s Police Department on Thursday, as police continue to target violent crime. The plan, which was announced in front of the Baltimore Police Department Headquarters, seeks to address the shortage of more than 140 funded police positions from the City’s patrols.

“I fully support the Mayor’s plan to address violent crime in Baltimore,” said Council President Rawlings-Blake. “But we can not fully enforce the plan without an adequate force on the streets. The shortage of more than 140 uniformed positions is roughly equal to an entire district worth of officers that are missing from our streets. Solving this crisis not only addresses the crime problem, but helps to solve the department’s overtime overages as well.”

The plan will be presented in resolution form at the City Council Meeting on June 4, 2007. It includes:

1. A formal request to the Mayor of Baltimore to make an emergency disbursement of \$2 million from the City’s “rainy day fund” to begin an immediate and aggressive campaign to recruit new Baltimore City Police Officers. The funds will be used for:
 - a. The production of public service announcements aimed at recruiting new officers to air by August 1, 2007.
 - b. The development of recruitment banners to display at Baltimore City Police Headquarters, as well as the facilities in each of the nine Police Districts.
 - c. The creation of recruitment materials targeted at recent Baltimore City High School graduates and current BCCC students, as well as eligible city residents.
 - d. Materials to be used at Police Department job fairs to be held in each of the nine Police Districts beginning July 15, 2007.
2. A formal request to the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention to issue a grant to the City of Baltimore to further the campaign for the recruitment of Baltimore City Police Officers.
3. The creation of a Community Task Force focused on staffing a Police Auxiliary Unit to man PAL centers throughout the city, allowing sworn, uniformed officers to return to enforcement activities in Baltimore’s neighborhoods.

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