

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, President

# BALTIMORE



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## City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake Will Fast-track Final Passage of Inclusionary Housing Bill

**Baltimore, MD** (June 8, 2007) - Baltimore City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake is applauding the members of the Land Use and Transportation Committee for their favorable passage of the Inclusionary Housing legislation Wednesday night. Today, the Council President is announcing an expedited schedule to "fast track" final passage of the bill.

"Baltimore can not afford to wait for affordable housing," said Council President Rawlings-Blake. "This bill is two years in the making, and I intend to complete the process within the week. I thank the Land Use and Transportation Committee for treating this final version of the bill fairly."

The Council President had originally scheduled two City Council meetings for Monday, June 11, in order to have a final vote on the FY2008 budget. Council President Rawlings-Blake will add the Inclusionary Housing bill to the agenda of the first meeting, to take place at 3:00 p.m., allowing final passage of the bill to take place at the 5:00 p.m. session.

The Council President plans to support the bill, particularly because of the provisions in the legislation that allow for funds from the Affordable Housing Offset Fund to be used as grants towards the purchase and repair of vacant properties in Baltimore. In addition, the Council President strongly supports housing for buyers of varied income levels, allowing for communities to be built around the strengths of the neighborhood rather than solely the tax contribution of its residents."

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