

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, President

# BALTIMORE



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## City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake to Call for Changes in City Pension System

*Council President says current system creates two tiers of retirement benefits*

Baltimore, MD (August 13, 2007) – Baltimore City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake will introduce a resolution at tonight's Council Meeting calling for an examination of the City's current pension system offered to City employees. The Council President is calling for a public hearing to explore ways to increase benefits offered to employees who don't fall under the category of "public safety."

Currently, police and fire employees receive certain benefits in their pension system that are not included in the pensions offered other municipal employees. This creates a two-tiered pension system, according to Council President Rawlings-Blake.

"We got it right with the public safety employee pension. They deserve the benefits they get," said Council President Rawlings-Blake. "But we need to figure out a way to offer the same pension benefits to the hard working municipal employees that count on these benefits to retire."

The resolution will be introduced on first reader at tonight's Council Meeting, and will be referred to the Taxation and Finance Committee.

Baltimore, MD (August 13, 2007) – Baltimore City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake will introduce a resolution at tonight's Council Meeting calling for the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office and the Police Commissioner to cooperatively develop an inter-agency training program for police officers that develops arrest policies that support effective prosecution of criminals.

"As a former Public Defender, I understand that an officer's job is not complete with an arrest," said Council President Rawlings-Blake. "They are the front lines to building a prosecutable case to increase conviction rates, and reduce recidivism. The State's Attorney's Office has a clear stake in ensuring officers gather the evidence they need to build a solid case."

The resolution will be introduced at tonight's Council Meeting on first reader, and will be referred to the Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee.

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