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Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, President

# BALTIMORE



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## **City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake Applauds Board of Estimates Approval of Police Contract**

*Components of contract resulted from Council President's meeting with rank and file officers*

Baltimore, MD (October 31, 2007) – This morning, the Baltimore City Board of Estimates, chaired by Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, approved a new contract with the local Fraternal Order of Police, resulting in a series of positive changes and reforms for Baltimore's police officers.

Most notably, a pilot program in Northeast Baltimore will be launched as a result of the agreement, which changes officer work weeks from five-day, eight-hour shifts to four-day, ten-hour shifts. This move allows commanders to strategically overlap work shifts during peak crime periods, effectively doubling the amount of officers on the streets during those times in targeted neighborhoods. This is a program that has been debated for several years, but advocated for heavily by the Council President following her meeting with several rank and file officers this past June. During that meeting, the officers recommended the change as a pilot program in an area of the City that can most benefit from the strategic approach.

"I'm extremely pleased we were able to work with the Mayor's Office and the FOP towards this agreement," said Council President Rawlings-Blake. "In addition to the wage increase and the restrictions on overtime, this goes a long way to ensuring a certain quality of life for our officers without impacting the protection they provide the people of our City. This is an excellent example of government collaboration, and I applaud the Mayor and the Police Department for taking this step for the benefit of our hard-working officers."

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