

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, President

BALTIMORE



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Stephanie Rawlings-Blake Takes Oath of Office as President of Baltimore's Seventieth City Council

Baltimore, MD (December 6, 2007) – Baltimore welcomed its Seventieth City Council today in a ceremony that included spiritual performances and inspirational remarks from dignitaries such as former Congressman Kweisi Mfume, Mayor Sheila Dixon, and Governor Martin O'Malley.

Council President Rawlings-Blake's remarks at the ceremony focused on a shared vision for Baltimore's future, and the role of the City Council in achieving that vision. "Twelve years on the City Council and a lifetime connected with public service has taught me that power is never about me," she said. "My sole ambition is to make government work for the people it serves."

Rawlings-Blake went on to outline the key elements of Baltimore that she will focus on as City Council President. "We won't simply rest on the assumption that a rising tide will lift all boats. To sustain the success we've experienced in these neighborhoods, and to provide the foundation for success in the future, we must address the basic elements of that foundation," said Rawlings-Blake, referring to public education and public safety.

Today's ceremony completes a historical team of African American women elected to lead the City in its top four offices. Earlier this week, Mayor Sheila Dixon was sworn-in as Baltimore's first elected woman Mayor. That same day Joan Pratt took the oath of office as Baltimore City Comptroller. Patricia Jessamy, Baltimore City State's Attorney, who has been in office since 1995, completes the historical team of African American women leaders.

Baltimore now holds the distinction of the only major U.S. City whose top four elected offices are held by African American women. Members of the Seventieth City Council will get right to work this evening, as the City Council convenes its first meeting of the term at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

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