

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, President

# BALTIMORE



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## City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake Calls for Public Hearing to Address Liquor License Enforcement in Baltimore

**Baltimore, MD** (March 17, 2008) – Baltimore City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake will introduce a resolution at this evening's City Council meeting calling for a public hearing with the Chairman of the Board of Liquor Licenses Commissioners regarding enforcement of liquor license regulations in Baltimore. Council President Rawlings-Blake has met with several community organizations whose members complain of weak enforcement and insignificant sanctions for repeated license violations by several establishments in the City. Rawlings-Blake has repeatedly petitioned the Board to crack down on license holders that do not operate responsibly, and has participated in neighborhood walks to establishments suspected of such activity.

Among the issues Rawlings-Blake hopes to discuss publicly are:

- The use and enforcement of BD-7 Liquor Licenses;
- The legitimacy of establishments claiming to be tavern operations;
- The legitimacy of establishments operating with bottle licenses;
- Repeat violators who consistently and knowingly sell alcohol to minors;
- The level of cooperation between Liquor Board Inspectors and law enforcement personnel; and
- The efficacy of current alcoholic beverage statutes, zoning laws, and Board rules and regulations in protecting individuals and communities from the deleterious effects of excessive alcohol establishments.

"These are the types of issues that eat away at neighborhoods from the inside," noted Council President Rawlings-Blake. "Many community issues are difficult to get a handle on. This is not one of those issues. We owe it to our citizens to respond promptly to their complaints, and protect our neighborhoods from the effects of irresponsible licensees."

Council President Rawlings-Blake's resolution will be introduced tonight at the 5:00 p.m. Council meeting, and will be assigned to the Public Safety and Health Committee for a hearing to be scheduled.

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