

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, President

# BALTIMORE



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## City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake to Introduce Legislation Addressing Property Crimes in Baltimore

**Baltimore, MD** (April 7, 2008) – Baltimore City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake will introduce an ordinance at tonight's City Council meeting aimed at increasing the efficiency of communication between the pawnbrokers of Baltimore and the City's Police Department. The legislation, Rawlings-Blake says, will help police recover stolen property more easily and may help track down petty thieves who have operated in Baltimore neighborhoods for far too long.

Current law requires pawnbrokers and second hand property dealers to report information on each transaction in which they deal. This information is entered into a manual filing system, which police contend can make it cumbersome to find stolen property when reported to authorities, if that property has been sold to a pawn shop in Baltimore. Council President Rawlings-Blake's bill will require that all transactions be submitted on a daily basis into a new electronic database, and will require that photos of the property be included in that report.

"We live in an age where technology is rapidly evolving and allowing us to govern more efficiently on all levels," noted Council President Rawlings-Blake. "This bill simply expands that efficiency to the Police Department in their efforts to enforce property crime laws in Baltimore. Quality of life issues in our City won't be ignored, and with this new system we can give police the tools they need to protect our citizens against those crimes."

Bill 08-0091 will be introduced at tonight's 5:00 p.m. City Council meeting, and will be referred to the Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee for a hearing to be announced.

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