

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, President

# BALTIMORE

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

100 North Holliday St. • Room 400 • Baltimore, MD • 21202 • 410-396-4804

Contact: Ryan O'Doherty  
410-396-5538 (office)  
410-818-4269 (cell)

MEDIA ADVISORY:

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**COUNCIL PRESIDENT STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE  
ANNOUNCES CITY'S '9/11 RUN TO REMEMBER' CHALLENGE**

*Rawlings-Blake Challenges Mayor and State's Attorney to 5K Run  
to raise money for the Baltimore Police Foundation and Fire Department*

**BALTIMORE**—In front of the Firefighters Memorial at Lexington and Gay streets, Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake challenged Mayor Sheila Dixon and State's Attorney Patricia Jessamy to participate in the 7th Annual St. Joseph Medical Center 'Run to Remember' 5K Run. The run honors the victims and fallen heroes of September 11th and benefits the Baltimore Police Foundation and Baltimore Fire Department. The event is presented by Charm City Run and is the only race in the country held on September 11th.

Flanked by Police Commissioner Frederick Bealefeld and Fire Chief James Clack, Rawlings-Blake challenged the Mayor and State's Attorney to encourage everyone in their offices to register and participate in the run. The three offices will compete in three categories: Fastest time, highest number of participants, and highest percentage of participation from each office.

"As we remember the fallen heroes of September 11, it is important to recognize and support our City's first-responders and everything they do to keep us safe," Rawlings-Blake said. "'Run to Remember' is not only a living tribute in honor of those who sacrificed their lives to protect us, it is also a living contribution to support the needs of the Baltimore Police Foundation and Fire Department."

Over the past year, the Council President and Mayor have often vowed to challenge each other to a race—for charity, of course. "Mayor Dixon and State's Attorney Jessamy need to understand that my office has been training in anticipation of this moment," Rawlings-Blake said. "Hopefully, their offices are up to the challenge."

Mayor Dixon responded, "The 'Run to Remember' celebrates the vital contributions of the brave men and women of our fire and police departments." She then added, "I will also have an opportunity to congratulate my office for beating both the Council President and State's Attorney's staffs in the race."

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“The “Run to Remember” is a special occasion to honor the daily heroism by the city’s police, fire and law enforcement family,” said State’s Attorney Patricia C. Jessamy. I salute their service and sacrifice.”

“I remind the Mayor and Council President that prosecutors in the State’s Attorney’s Office have already successfully passed the BAR” and are ready to win the race, Jessamy said.

John K. Tolmie, President and CEO of St. Joseph Medical Center, the lead sponsor of the run, did not speculate on an expected outcome of the race between the Offices of the Council President, Mayor and State’s Attorney.

"St. Joseph Medical Center is proud to, once again and for the seventh consecutive year, sponsor the St. Joseph Medical Center 9/11 Run to Remember in Baltimore City," Tolmie said. "We continue to honor the heroic police and firefighters who perished on 9/11 trying to save innocent lives. This run keeps their memory alive and recognizes our everyday heroes in Baltimore City - the police and firefighters who protect our citizens."

In previous years, the St. Joseph ‘Run to Remember’ has helped the Baltimore Mounted Police Unit, equipped city police cars with defibrillators, and raised funds for police and fire departments in the gulf region damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

In 2007, funding was provided to the Baltimore Police K-9 Unit to purchase a new German Sheppard dog named Sabian, who is trained to find explosives, drugs, and to conduct building searches. Sabian and his trainer Officer Kurt Snyder joined the Council President, Mayor Dixon and State’s Attorney Jessamy for the announcement. Sabian declined to comment on the race between them.

The St. Joseph Medical Center 9/11 Run to Remember will be held on Thursday September 11, 2008 at 7:00am. For more information or to register for the event, visit [www.charmcityrun.com](http://www.charmcityrun.com) or in person at Charm City Run Timonium, 2045 York Road or Charm City Run Bel Air, 126 S. Main Street. The course for the run begins in front of Baltimore City Police Headquarters on Fayette Street and continues through the downtown to finish at Federal Hill Park.

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