

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, President

# BALTIMORE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
Monday, September 8, 2008

## **CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE CALLS FOR NEW SCHOOL VIOLENCE HOTLINE**

### ***Resolution Urges School System to work with City Hall to Create a Hotline for Reports of Suspected Gang Activity, Threats and Acts of Violence***

BALTIMORE—Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake will introduce a City Council Resolution calling for the creation of a new hotline for parents, teachers, and students to report and help prevent violence occurring in Baltimore City Public schools. The resolution will be introduced at tonight's City Council meeting at 5:00pm.

"Reports of suspected gang activity, threats and acts of violence, are all very serious matters," Rawlings-Blake said. "We need to establish a better system that allows students, parents and teachers to report actionable information directly to City School Police and top school administrators."

The resolution also seeks to examine ways to use Baltimore City's existing 311 Call Center technologies to collect and share data and more effectively target resources to individual schools.

"By removing bureaucratic barriers and opening a direct line of communication, we can do a better job reducing violence in our schools and keep our students and teachers safe," Rawlings-Blake said.

The Council President recently spoke to School CEO Dr. Andres Alonso about the idea of a new violence hotline at a meeting of the School system's Steering Committee for Safe and Supportive Learning Environments.

"Dr. Alonso has been a tremendous partner working with the City Council to improve our public schools," Rawlings-Blake said. "And, I look forward to working with Dr. Alonso and the School Board to move this idea towards implementation."

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