

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, President

BALTIMORE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 5, 2008

COUNCIL PRESIDENT STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE JOINS MAYOR DIXON FOR PROPERTY CRIME BILL SIGNING

Measure Requires Electronic Reporting from Pawn and Second-hand Shops, Will Help Police Recover Stolen Property and Locate Criminal Suspects

BALTIMORE—Today, Mayor Sheila Dixon signed into law a new property crime ordinance that requires pawnshops and secondhand dealers to report transactions electronically to the Baltimore City Police Department. The measure, sponsored by City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, is modeled after similar efforts in place in the Washington, DC area that have helped police recover millions of dollars in stolen property and arrest criminal suspects.

“Improving public safety is a top priority and the Mayor and City Council are committed to finding innovative ways to reduce crime in Baltimore,” Rawlings-Blake said. “This new ordinance will enable our police detectives to solve more property crimes and help make our neighborhoods safer and stronger.”

During the last legislative session in Annapolis, local jurisdictions tried unsuccessfully to get similar legislation passed. Immediately after the state effort failed, Council President Rawlings-Blake introduced stronger local legislation to the City Council.

“It is my sincere hope that this local bill will become a model for statewide legislation for next session,” Rawlings-Blake said. “It is critical that law enforcement in every jurisdiction have immediate, electronic access to pawn and second hand transaction data so that police can investigate property crimes more effectively.”

The transaction data collected from pawnshops and secondhand dealers will be integrated into a regional database shared by police departments in jurisdictions in the Baltimore and Washington regions. Baltimore’s new ordinance also requires merchants to submit electronic photos of property when placed on hold by police detectives.

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