

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, President

BALTIMORE

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MEDIA ADVISORY:

Monday, November 17, 2008

CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER NEW SMOKING BAN NEAR HOSPITALS

Public Health Measure Would Prohibit Smoking in Areas Adjacent to Hospitals

BALTIMORE—Tonight, members of the Baltimore City Council will introduce a new measure to prohibit smoking on sidewalks, alleys and other public rights-of-away adjacent to city hospitals. The bill will institute a fine of up to \$50.00 for violators of the provision and also requires hospitals to post "smoke free area" signs. In early 2007, the Baltimore City Council passed the first local ordinance in the state to prohibit smoking in bars and restaurants.

"This new public health measure ensures that areas around our local hospitals will be smoke-free in order to protect the health of patients and citizens," said Councilman Robert Curran (District-3), author of the bill.

"I would like to thank Councilman Curran for introducing this legislation," said Council President Stephanie Rawlings Blake, a leading co-sponsor of the bill, "Patients with asthma, lung cancer or other respiratory-related diseases should not have to walk through a wall of smoke when entering Baltimore hospitals to seek treatment."

"Smoking kills and with this new proposed smoking prohibition in areas around local hospitals, Baltimore City will continue to lead the state in advancing public health ordinances to protect our citizens from the dangers of second-hand smoke," Rawlings-Blake concluded.

WHO: Councilman Robert Curran (District-3), Council President Stephanie Rawlings Blake and other members of the Baltimore City Council.

WHAT: Members will introduce a new measure to prohibit smoking on sidewalks, alleys and other public rights-of-away adjacent to city hospitals.

WHERE: Du Burns Council Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall, 100 North Holliday Street, Baltimore.

WHEN: Tonight, Monday, November 17, 2008 at 5:00p

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