

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
Director of Communications
410-396-5538 (office)
410-818-4269 (cell)
ryan.odoherty@baltimorecity.gov

MEDIA ADVISORY:
Monday, January 12, 2009

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CALLS FOR HEARING ON CITY PENSIONS

Recent Fraud and Need for More Local & Minority Participation Raises Concerns

BALTIMORE—Today, Baltimore City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake is calling for an investigative hearing to review the investment policy guidelines of city police, fire and employee pension systems. Rawlings-Blake will introduce a City Council Resolution for the purpose of examining ways to better protect police, fire and city employee pensions from fraud.

“Pension funds lose investment returns from time-to-time due to poor market performance,” Rawlings-Blake said. “However, it is never acceptable for public pension funds to lose value as a result of theft, fraud or abuse. We owe it to our dedicated city employees to ensure that their retirement is secure.”

Last week, the Baltimore Sun reported that the Fire and Police Employees' Retirement System “lost \$3.5 million in pension money invested in a fund with ties to disgraced money manager Bernard L. Madoff.” The fund was among many public and private institutional investment funds that were hit by the \$50 billion Ponzi scheme, raising significant questions about investment policy guidelines of public pension systems.

As part of the City Council review, the Council President will also request an update on efforts by the city employee pension boards to allow more local and minority firms to manage pension investments.

WHO: Baltimore City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake

WHAT: Rawlings-Blake introducing a City Council Resolution calling for an investigative hearing to review the investment policy guidelines of city police, fire and employee pension systems.

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

WHEN: Monday, January 12, 2009 at 5:00pm.

#