



## **STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE**

**Baltimore City Council President**

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***Better Schools. Safer Streets. Stronger Neighborhoods.***

**MEDIA ADVISORY:**

*Tuesday, March 10, 2009*

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### **CITY COUNCIL, SCHOOL SYSTEM TO ADDRESS SCHOOL VIOLENCE**

***Hearings Focus on School Violence Hotline and Gang Program for Teachers  
Rawlings-Blake Suggests New Text Messaging System for Students to Report Tips***

BALTIMORE - Tomorrow, the City Council's Education Committee will meet with Baltimore City Schools CEO Dr. Andrés Alonso to discuss two City Council Resolutions focused on school violence prevention. Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake introduced the resolutions to urge for the creation of a new hotline for parents, teachers, and students to report and help prevent violence in public schools; and to urge for the development of a new training program for teachers to help identify youth most at-risk for gang recruitment.

Rawlings-Blake suggested that in addition to a revamped hotline, city schools look to Broward County Public schools in Florida, where officials have created a new text messaging system that allows students to report anonymous tips about potential threats. "This is an innovative program that another large school system has implemented for very little cost," Rawlings-Blake said. "Baltimore should be looking at new ways to encourage students to come forward to help prevent school violence."

"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. "Dr. Alonso has been a tremendous partner working with elected leaders, communities, parents and teachers to improve our public schools," Rawlings-Blake said. "It is my hope that we can continue to push forward with new, innovative ideas and programs."

**WHO:** Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Education Committee Chair Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke (District-11), Baltimore City Schools CEO Dr. Andrés Alonso and members of the City Council.

**WHAT:** City Council Education Committee Hearing on 08-0062R Informational Hearing – Baltimore City Public School System – Anonymous Call Hotline and 08-0068R Baltimore City Public School Teachers Gang Related Violence Training.

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

**WHEN:** Tomorrow, Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 5:00pm. The hearing will also be televised on TV25 (Comcast Channel 25).

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