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Better Schools. Safer Streets. Stronger Neighborhoods.

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CITY COUNCIL TO REVIEW POLICE CRIME CAMERA STRATEGY

CCTV technology and methods used to measure performance

BALTIMORE—Tonight, the City Council's Public Safety and Health Committee will review the Baltimore Police Department's efforts to increase the use of closed-circuit crime camera technology. Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake introduced a City Council resolution in early February calling for the review.

The cameras have been a critical tool for fighting crime in Baltimore. In 2007, overall crime was reduced by 10% in camera areas as compared to the previous year. In 2008, the cameras were instrumental in solving and preventing shootings, robberies, and assaults. Through Citiwatch, camera monitors assisted police in making 729 arrests in the Downtown Business District in 2008 – an increase of 32% from 2007.

“A closer look at the CCTV camera program will give assurance that this important law enforcement tool is being fully utilized,” Rawlings-Blake said. “It is also important that communities where the “old” blue-light cameras are being phased-out are being properly informed of the better crime-fighting capabilities of the new CCTV cameras.”

Rawlings-Blake will also ask Police officials to update the Council and the public on exploratory efforts to enhance PODSS cameras with new wireless technology that allows for live monitoring. “Baltimore's investment in crime cameras has made our neighborhoods safer. We must continue to improve our systems as new technology becomes available,” Rawlings-Blake said.

WHO: Baltimore City Council Public Safety and Health Committee, Police Department, and Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Officials.

WHAT: Public hearing to review the Baltimore Police Department's efforts to increase the use of closed circuit camera technology

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

WHEN: Tonight, Wednesday, March 1, 2009 beginning at 5:00pm. The hearing will be televised on TV25.

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