



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE

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Better Schools. Safer Streets. Stronger Neighborhoods.

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CITY COUNCIL URGES RESTORATION OF RECREATION AND PARKS FUNDING

Rawlings-Blake requests funding restoration for rec centers, childcare centers and city pools in FY2010 budget; urges police to maintain presence in former PAL centers

BALTIMORE—Today, City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake urged Mayor Sheila Dixon to work to restore funding for the Department of Recreation and Parks to avoid recreation center, childcare center and city pool closures. In a City Council resolution requesting budget action, Rawlings-Blake also urged the Police Commissioner to work with the Director of Recreation and Parks to maintain a formal police presence in former Police Athletic League (PAL) Centers.

“While the City Council fully understands the difficult fiscal circumstances that the city faces, we must also recognize the importance of protecting our priorities in public safety, public schools and services for our youth,” Rawlings-Blake said. “The Mayor has done a good job crafting the proposed budget, but I believe that we can do better for our children and protect these critically important services.”

“This request for action provides the Mayor an opportunity to make adjustments to the proposed budget before it is submitted to the City Council for consideration,” Rawlings-Blake said. “We look forward to working with the Mayor to make changes to the preliminary budget.”

“The City Council also understands that converting PAL Centers to Recreation Centers may be fiscally prudent; however, it is also important that our police officers continue to build positive relationships with our city’s youth,” Rawlings-Blake said. “We can do that if the Police Commissioner agrees to maintain a formal, structured police presence in former PAL Centers.”

“I would like to thank Mayor Dixon for presenting a fiscally-sound preliminary budget in these difficult economic times,” Rawlings-Blake said. “By working together we can create a final budget that protects our city’s priorities.”

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