



## STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE

Baltimore City Council President

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*Better Schools. Safer Streets. Stronger Neighborhoods.*

### **MEDIA ADVISORY:**

Monday, June 29, 2009

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### **CITY COUNCIL TO EXAMINE POLICE TRANSPARENCY AND CRIME ALERTS**

*Rawlings-Blake focuses on e-mail/text crime alerts, online reporting of officer-related shooting and preliminary crime statistics.*

BALTIMORE—Tomorrow, the City Council's Public Safety and Health Committee will hold hearings on two resolutions introduced by Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake regarding police transparency and communications.

In March, Rawlings-Blake introduced a City Council Resolution urging the Baltimore Police Commissioner to institute a citywide text messaging system to alert residents and businesses about criminal activity. The Baltimore Police Department has since created the alert system in order to provide real-time information about robberies, missing persons, auto theft and violent crime.

Rawlings-Blake also introduced a City Council Resolution urging Baltimore Police Department to implement Internet reporting systems to disclose the final internal investigation results of officer-related shootings and monthly preliminary crime statistics. Rawlings-Blake noted that Chicago's Independent Police Review Authority now posts the final results of investigations of police-involved shootings on the Internet. The reports provide great detail of the agency's investigations, including direct accounts from police officers and witnesses.

Similarly, in an effort to build trust with communities, police departments across the nation are becoming more transparent by providing monthly preliminary crime statistics reports via the Internet. For example, the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department's website provides up-to-date preliminary crime statistics including recent arrest activity as well as the current number of homicides, firearm recoveries, robberies and assaults. Rawlings-Blake's "transparency" Resolution urges the Baltimore Police Department to take a similar approach.

**WHO:** City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and members of the City Council.

**WHAT:** City Council Public Safety and Health Committee Hearings on 09-0118R Investigative Hearing - Crime Alerts - Citywide Text Messaging and 09-0121R Baltimore City Police Department – Online Transparency - Reporting Systems for Officer Related Shootings and Preliminary Crime Statistics.

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

**WHEN:** Tomorrow, Tuesday, June 30, 2009 beginning at 4:00pm

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