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Better Schools. Safer Streets. Stronger Neighborhoods.

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CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT RAWLINGS-BLAKE LAUNCHES DONATION DRIVE FOR CITY FIRE STATIONS

*“Genie in July—Grant a Wish for a City Firefighter” Campaign allows firefighters to request
basic houseware items for citizens and local businesses to donate*

BALTIMORE—Today at the Engine 20-Walbrook Fire Station in West Baltimore, City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake launched a new citywide initiative to improve living arrangements at Baltimore City’s fire stations. With the assistance of the Fire Department and Mayor’s Office of Information Technology, she launched the “Be a Genie in July: Grant a Wish to City Firefighters” campaign with a website to solicit donations of items on the firefighters’ wish lists.

While on a recent tour of city fire stations, Rawlings-Blake noticed that many fire stations lacked some basic amenities. She saw firsthand the need for various items that could make the station house a true home away from home. The “Be a Genie in July—Grant a Wish for a City Firefighter” campaign allows firefighters to request basic houseware items for citizens, local businesses and community groups to donate.

Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake kicked off this effort to assist the Fire Department at a time when the struggling economy is affecting us all. “Like all Baltimore City residents, I appreciate and value the firefighters’ dedication to keeping our communities safe,” said Rawlings-Blake. “And I know that citizens who value and are grateful for their service would be glad to pitch in and help our firefighters with some modest upgrades to their workplace.” Fire Chief James Clack wholeheartedly supports the effort. “Genie in July is a great program that will provide firefighters with some of the comforts of home,” said Chief Clack.

Some of the items firefighters have requested to date include air conditioners, filing cabinets, and office and kitchen furniture. Citizens wishing to donate items for the firefighters can go to the City Council website at www.baltimorecitycouncil.com or call 410-396-5616. On the website, citizens can select items they would like to donate and leave contact information so arrangements can be made to pick up the items.

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