



Bernard C. "Jack" Young
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**MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
Wednesday, April 28, 2010

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT CALLS FOR PRUDENCE IN RELATION TO REC & PARKS NOMINEE

“Department has experienced too much turnover to fast-track a candidate.”

BALTIMORE, MD – City Council President Bernard C. “Jack” Young today called for a pause to the confirmation hearing for a new director of the Department of Recreation and Parks.

While Council President Young finds Mr. Gregory A. Bayor’s qualifications impressive, he wants to make sure that the nominee is prepared to deal with the challenges facing a department that has experienced high turnover and the prospect of losing a third of its funding in Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake’s preliminary fiscal year 2011 budget.

“I have been a huge proponent of our city’s recreation centers and parks, and of the critical role those facilities and programs play in a successful public safety strategy,” Council President Young said. “I need to make sure the next director of the Department of Recreation and Parks understands the challenges facing our youth and seniors and has a plan in place to meet them from Day One. This is certainly not a nomination that should be rushed.”

Mr. Chris T. Delaporte, Commissioner of the Baltimore Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, said he thinks Mr. Bayor is highly qualified to lead the department, but agrees with Council President Young’s decision to use this nomination process to ask tough questions about the future of the department.

“Given the fact that we have had three directors in the last ten years, and the fact that the department is in such a tough spot, it is understandable that the Council would want to be deliberate and thorough in its assessment of Mr. Bayor,” Commissioner Delaporte said. “I have no doubt whatsoever that he will be unanimously confirmed. He can do all aspects of the job and do them well.”

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