



**Bernard C. "Jack" Young**  
**President,**  
**Baltimore City Council**

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250 City Hall • Baltimore Maryland 21202  
410-396-4804 • Fax: 410-539-0647

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, August 26, 2010

**CONTACT**

Lester Davis  
(410) 396-4804 **office**  
(443) 835-0784 **mobile**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT TO REINFORCE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY; TALK POLICY  
WITH MIDDLE SCHOOLERS ON OPENING DAY**

*City Council President Bernard C. "Jack" Young will begin the first day of school serving as a pedestrian safety officer at City elementary school with the highest number of pedestrian related accidents and fatalities.*

BALTIMORE, MD – When students return Monday to William Paca Elementary School from summer vacation, they'll encounter a maze of road construction and the unfortunate distinction of leading all City elementary and middle schools in the number of pedestrian-related traffic accidents and fatalities, according to the City Department of Transportation.

City Council President Bernard C. "Jack" Young will don a reflective safety vest, white gloves, and metal STOP sign and whistle as he safely guides students across the busy intersections surrounding Paca Elementary. Council President Young will use his time helping students – 96 percent of whom walk to school – cross traffic-clogged streets to emphasize the importance of pedestrian safety.

After spending time at Paca driving home the importance of remaining vigilant while walking to school, Council President Young will travel to Dr. Rayner Browne Academy and answer questions from civically-engaged middle schoolers who wrote to City Hall over the summer looking for solutions to problems plaguing their communities.

"We need the vacant houses knocked down so we can make more community gardens and ponds," one student wrote.

Typically used as a day for political posturing and glad-handing, Council President Young will instead spend the first day of class on Monday teaching life-saving pedestrian skills to elementary school students and engaging middle schoolers in substantive policy discussions.

"I am extremely honored to be able to spend the first day of school actively working on solutions to some of Baltimore's more persistent problems like eliminating vacant buildings and decreasing pedestrian-related traffic incidents around our schools," Council President Young said. "The young people I will meet with throughout the day on Monday represent bright minds and fresh solutions to the problems that continue to plague Baltimore."

During a jam-packed day of student discussions that begin around 7:15 a.m. Monday morning and carry on through the early afternoon, Council President Young will also spend time with youngsters from Dr. Nathan A. Pitts-Ashburton Elementary/Middle School's Men of Tomorrow program. Council President Young will meet over lunch with students involved in the mentoring program and engage in an intimate discussion on how youth civic engagement can positively impact their communities.

### **Council President Young's Back2School Schedule**

**7:15 a.m.** – William Paca Elementary School, 200 N. Lakewood Ave.

**7:50 a.m.** – Northwood Elementary School, 5201 Loch Raven Blvd.

**9:15 a.m.** – Commodore John Rogers Elementary/Middle School – one of seven schools this year recognized as a turnaround, 100 N. Chester St.

**11:00 a.m.** – Dr. Rayner Browne Academy, 1000 N. Montford Ave.

**12:30 p.m.** – Dr. Nathan A. Pitts-Ashburton Elementary/Middle School, 3935 Hilton Rd.

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