



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE

Baltimore City Council President

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Better Schools. Safer Streets. Stronger Neighborhoods.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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RAWLINGS-BLAKE OPPOSES 25-CENT PLASTIC BAG FEE

***Fears families will pick up the \$6.4 million cost of City Council proposal;
Encourages City residents to recycle***

BALTIMORE—Today, City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake will announce her opposition to a City Council proposal that would impose a stiff 25 cent surcharge on plastic grocery store bags. Rawlings-Blake will visit customers at a local grocery store today to discuss the proposal and to encourage City residents to reuse and recycle paper and plastic grocery bags.

“This is a case of good intentions gone wrong. We all want to do what’s right for the environment, but we should not do so solely on the backs of families who are struggling to make ends meet, especially in these very difficult times,” Rawlings-Blake said.

City Council Bill #08-0208 would impose a 25-cent surcharge on the use of plastic bags provided by merchants to customers in certain retail businesses including supermarkets and convenience stores. Baltimore City’s Department of Finance estimates that the bill will place up to an additional \$6.4 million “financial burden” on City residents and businesses.

“The unemployment rate in Baltimore has nearly doubled since the start of 2008 as a result of the global economic crisis. Food and energy prices are rising. Now is not the time to add taxes and fees on family grocery bills,” Rawlings-Blake said. “This proposal is out-of-touch with the needs and struggles of our citizens.”

“We can increase recycling of plastic grocery bags by encouraging city residents to take advantage of the increase in recycling pick-up recently passed by the City Council and by working with our local businesses to support recycling efforts” Rawlings-Blake said.

WHAT: City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake will shop and visit with customers at a local grocery store today to discuss a City Council proposal that would impose a stiff 25-cent surcharge on plastic grocery store bags and to encourage City residents to reuse and recycle grocery bags.

WHERE: Shoppers Food & Pharmacy at Mondawmin Mall, 2401 Liberty Heights Ave, Baltimore, Maryland

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