



## STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE

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*Better Schools. Safer Streets. Stronger Neighborhoods.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Thursday, June 4, 2009

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### CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES APPROVE SLOTS ZONING LEGISLATION

*Zoning legislation now moves to full City Council for vote*

*Rawlings-Blake says facility will create jobs, fund education and reduce property taxes*

BALTIMORE—Tonight, the City Council Land Use and Transportation Committee and Urban Affairs Committee approved zoning changes needed to allow for a Video Lottery Terminal facility in South Baltimore. The legislation allows a Video Lottery Terminal facility as a “permitted use” in the city’s zoning code and amends the Carroll Camden Urban Renewal Plan to reflect land use changes.

“I am very pleased that committee members have approved the necessary zoning legislation to allow the City to move forward with a slots facility,” City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said. “This open and transparent process will continue as we work to fulfill the will of Baltimore City voters who voted overwhelmingly for the statewide slots referendum.”

“By moving the zoning legislation forward, the City Council is paving the way for new job creation, increased education funding, and the largest city property tax reduction in recent history,” Rawlings-Blake said. “I have consistently supported this effort because I believe in the benefits the slots facility will bring to the citizens of Baltimore.”

In April, the Baltimore City Board of Estimates approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Baltimore City Entertainment Group to develop a video lottery terminal facility on City-owned land south of M&T Bank Stadium.

According to the agreement, by the fifth year the facility will generate an estimated \$25.4 million annually in new City revenue, enabling an 8-cent reduction of the property tax rate. The construction of the facility will create 1800 jobs, and once operational, the facility will contain 700 full-time jobs and 450 part-time jobs with average wages of \$41,000.

The facility will also help to provide \$250 million to the Maryland Education Trust Fund, of which Baltimore City Schools receive approximately \$44 million. Local impact grants totaling \$28 million by year five will be available. Additionally, the Park Heights Redevelopment initiative will receive an estimated \$12 million by 2012, growing to \$18 million annually.

The zoning legislation will be presented for a full vote at the next meeting of the City Council on Monday, June 8, 2009. For more information about the zoning legislation visit: [www.baltimorecitycouncil.com](http://www.baltimorecitycouncil.com).

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