



**Sheila Dixon**

*Mayor,*  
Baltimore

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## **Mayor Dixon and Congressional Delegation Outline Federal Priorities for Baltimore**

Baltimore, MD (February 19, 2008) – Mayor Sheila Dixon was joined by United States Senator Barbara Mikulski and Representative John Sarbanes to discuss her federal priorities in the coming year. At the meeting, she outlined issues that will affect the delivery of critical programs and services to citizens.

“The people of Baltimore are fortunate to have dedicated and strong people representing them in Congress,” Mayor Dixon said. “This kind of leadership is important to the city’s future, particularly at a time when the economy is struggling and public resources are growing scarcer.”

“I know Baltimore, I fight for Baltimore, and I deliver for Baltimore,” Senator Mikulski said. “I’m here today to give the city an update, but I’m also here to listen. I will continue to fight with Team Maryland to keep Baltimore a priority in Congress.”

“As a member of Team Maryland, I am impressed with the Mayor’s agenda of investing in human capital,” Congressman John Sarbanes said. “I will continue to work with the Mayor to fight for improvements in Baltimore City.”

The Mayor’s FY ’09 federal priorities fall into five categories: Safe and Stable Neighborhoods, Building a Healthy City, High Wage Jobs, Building and Sustaining Healthy Neighborhoods and Cleaner and Greener City.

Under the category of Safe and Stable Neighborhoods, the Mayor is requesting \$1.1 million for Baltimore’s Gun Violence Reduction Initiative. This initiative will support Baltimore City’s multi-faceted approach to reducing violent crime through data collection and dissemination as well as targeted enforcement and prosecution of violent offenders. The funding will support the hiring of additional crime analysts and paralegals in addition to the implementation of technology enhancements for the Gun Trace Task Force and Baltimore EXILE.

Other highlights among the 17 initiatives include a \$3 million request for YouthWorks, the City’s summer jobs program for youth. The funding will allow 2,400 youth to participate in individual six-week summer employment opportunities.

In the category of Building and Sustaining Healthy Neighborhoods, the Mayor is requesting \$11.9 million for the Poppleton Housing Initiative. This initiative will address the dense concentration of abandoned buildings and vacant lots in Poppleton and will allow the site to be cleared and prepared for new construction of mixed-income rental and homeownership properties and neighborhood retail. These efforts will result in the construction of approximately 1,600 housing units and \$300 million in new investment.

In Mayor Dixon's continuing effort to stop the foreclosure crisis in the city, she is also requesting roughly \$10.3 million for the Neighborhood Foreclosure Mitigation Program. This program will provide neighborhood asset control through which non-profit housing providers would buy, rehab and sell foreclosed properties to homeowners to ensure that entire communities do not enter a foreclosure fueled disinvestment cycle. The funding would also provide for counseling and other intervention assistance.

Complete listing of Mayor Dixon's Federal Priorities:

Safe and Stable Neighborhoods

Baltimore Gun Violence Reduction Initiative  
Baltimore's Community Policing Program  
Juvenile Screening and Diversion Program  
The Reentry Center at the Northwest One-stop Career Center

Building a Healthy City

Baltimore City Health Disparities Initiative  
Baltimore's Healthy Babies

High Wage Jobs

YouthWorks Program  
UMB BioPark  
BRAC Employment Preparedness Program

Building and Sustaining Healthy Neighborhoods

Poppleton Housing Initiative  
Neighborhood Foreclosure Mitigation Program  
Assisted Multifamily Housing Preservation – Up-front Grant  
Cherry Hill Light Rail Station Access Improvements  
Midtown Cultural District Streetscape

Cleaner and Greener City

TreeBaltimore! Implementation Program  
Powdermill Run Restoration Project  
Gwynns Falls Restoration Project

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