



**Stephanie Rawlings-Blake**

*Mayor,*

Baltimore City

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***Better Schools. Safer Streets. Stronger Neighborhoods.***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, August 9, 2010

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***Mayor Rawlings-Blake Thanks Grant Capital Management for Gift to  
City Pool***

**BALTIMORE, MD. (August 9, 2010)**—Today, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake thanked local business Grant Capital Management, Inc. for an unsolicited donation of \$90,000 to the Baltimore City Foundation to fund continued operations at the Druid Hill Park Pool through Labor Day.

“I would like to thank the civic-minded leadership of Grant Capital Management for their generous gift to Baltimore City’s youth and families,” Mayor Rawlings-Blake said. “As a result of their contribution, more children will be able have a safe place to play and keep cool this summer. Grant Capital Management has set a proud example of what can be accomplished when local businesses step-up.”

“I grew up on the west side of Baltimore, near Gwynns Falls Parkway and Reisterstown Road,” said J.P. Grant, President and CEO of Grant Capital Management, Inc. “The two things that I remember most about the summer were overcoming my fear of swimming in the deep section at the park pool and the friends I made there. I hope that with the extended operation of the park pool, kids today can have a similar experience. Grant Capital is committed to supporting youth activities in the City of Baltimore.”

Druid Hill Park Pool serves over 1,200 citizens on a daily basis. Admission is \$1.50 per two-hour session. “We are thankful for Grant Capital Management’s generous donation. Thousands

of kids and families will be able to play and cool off,” added Gregory Bayor, Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks. “We hope that other businesses will be inspired to make a similar effort.”

Residents may also visit three indoor pools at Callowhill, Cherry Hill, and Chick Webb Aquatics Centers. For pool operating hours, please contact the Aquatics Division at (410) 396-3838.

Background on City Pool Funding:

This year, the City faced the worst fiscal crisis in modern history. Declining revenue and increased costs created an unprecedented \$121 million deficit. Without additional revenue, the City faced the prospect of closing seven fire companies, laying off more than 200 sworn police officer and permanently closing 29 recreation centers and several swimming pools. In this preliminary budget scenario, seven City walk-to pools, six wading/splash pools and three indoor pools would have been closed during the summer.

As a result of new revenue passed by Mayor Rawlings-Blake and the Baltimore City Council, \$719 thousand in additional funds were approved to keep all City pools open for six weeks this summer. Also, \$5 million was approved to keep all City recreation centers open throughout the summer. The Mayor’s Comprehensive Budget Plan fixed the \$121 million deficit, fully funded our obligation to public schools, maintained every single police officer, and reduced fire company closures.

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