

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, President



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From: Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2008 2:17 PM
To: DL - All Mailboxes - City of Baltimore
Subject: The Rawlings-Blake Roll Call: Council President's Newsletter #67

"Investing Where Baltimore Lives"

June 6, 2008

Dear Friends:

It was an up and down—and up again—week for four students at Patterson High School in Southeast Baltimore. The students, Concetta Bruton, Yusuf Ermurat, Jr., Iftin Iftin and Mayra Esparza were all slated to receive one-year scholarships, totaling \$8,400 to attend Baltimore City Community College. The scholarships were sponsored by a local Baltimore business. When this business unexpectedly pulled out of the agreement, these exceptional students were left in a lurch.

Fortunately, after a media report of the incident, there was a tremendous and touching outpouring of support from other Baltimore businesses and individuals in the community. What was an unfortunate situation became a real-life testament to the dedication of many individuals to our youth and our city's public schools. "I'm overwhelmed by the generosity of the people of Baltimore, the people of this country, the alumni, the businesses," Patterson Principal Laura D'Anna told WBAL-TV.

One of the individuals that stepped up to the plate is a good friend of mine, Mr. J.P. Grant. Mr. Grant is the founder and CEO of Grant Capital Management, a successful finance firm based in Columbia, Maryland. You might ask, why did the CEO of a Columbia company decide to fund these four scholarships for Baltimore City School students?

Well, Mr. Grant is a proud product of Baltimore City Public Schools and he cares deeply about the City of Baltimore and the students in our public schools. He has served on the boards of the Baltimore Museum Art and Red Cross as well as the Scholarship Committee of Harvard University, his alma mater. Put simply, Mr. Grant is a success story and a role model for Baltimore City Public School students. He is also a very modest man who, no doubt, will be very embarrassed when he reads this.

As soon as Mr. Grant was informed of the situation he immediately told me that he would be honored to provide the \$8,400 to fund the four one-year scholarships. He said he simply wanted to give back to the community that gave him so much—and help these four students in need. I was deeply touched by Mr. Grant's instantaneous generosity, and the generosity of many others throughout Baltimore. The result is that these combined efforts will enable these one-year scholarships to be transformed into 2-year scholarships.

I think the lesson of this uplifting story is that ultimately, when faced with a tough challenge, a great city will always rise to the occasion. This story also shows us just a glimpse of the vast capacity of this city to make positive change. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our youth. And together, we can unlock our potential as a great American city.

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
President, Baltimore City Council