

CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Department Celebrates Opening of New Headquarters

BALTIMORE (November 19, 2008) Mayor Sheila Dixon and Baltimore City Health Commissioner, Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, were joined by community members, elected officials, and City employees to celebrate the official opening of the Health Department's new headquarters.

The Baltimore City Health Department is the oldest, continuously operating health department in the United States. It was formed in 1793, when the governor appointed the city's first health officers in response to a yellow fever outbreak. Since that time, BCHD has worked to improve the health and well-being of Baltimore residents in partnership with agencies, health care providers, community organizations, the media, and funders.

The new headquarters, located at 1001 E. Fayette Street, houses over 200 employees and numerous Department programs ranging from school health, to HIV/STD prevention, and food control. This project, totaling \$6.5 million, was financed by parking revenue bonds and existing city capital dollars. These costs will be reimbursed when the existing Health Department building is declared as surplus and sold.

The building's construction was completed on budget and on time, with several green features. These include the reuse of an existing building with all of its system, green label carpet with recycled content, low volatile carbon paint, and optimal design to capture as much daylight as possible.

"This building reflects the city's commitments to health and to the city workforce," said Mayor Sheila Dixon. "But it is not a reward for 200 years of accomplishment; it is a downpayment on future progress in health."

Dr. Sharfstein added, "This building will inspire all of us working for Baltimore's health for many years to come. I thank all of the many people who made this move possible."

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