

CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Olivia D. Farrow, Esq., R.S.
Interim Commissioner
1001 E. Fayette Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Brian Schleiter

PHONE: 443-984-2623

Mediahealth@baltimorecity.gov

Baltimore City Health Department Hosts Lead and Healthy Housing Summit

BALTIMORE, MD (September 9, 2009) — Mayor Sheila Dixon joined the Baltimore City Health Department in hosting an all day strategic roundtable on lead poisoning and healthy housing policy for the City of Baltimore. The Lead and Healthy Homes Summit brought together leaders and community members to identify needed regulatory and policy changes that will improve the health and safety of housing in Baltimore.

Mayor Dixon opened the summit by endorsing several new strategies for making homes healthier, safer and greener. They included using integrated pest management techniques to reduce the use of harmful pesticides in city owned and leased properties, encouraging businesses to shift to green cleaning products to reduce the risks of exposure to chemicals in commonly used cleaning products, and reducing smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke.

“Healthy homes are an important component of a Cleaner, Greener Baltimore,” said Mayor Dixon. “Our Sustainability Plan – endorsed by the City Council, Sustainability Commission, as well as myself – includes many elements that will improve the health and safety of housing.”

Summit participants included leaders from local, state and federal government, community-based organizations, private enterprise and Baltimore city community members. After examining regulatory and policy barriers to improving the health and safety of housing in Baltimore, participants were asked to publicly state what steps they would take to effect change.

“By soliciting commitments for policy changes from a wide range of policy-makers and stakeholders in the housing, education, health, and construction industries, we made real progress toward reducing asthma, ending lead poisoning and preventing serious injuries,” said Interim Commissioner Farrow.

To learn more, please contact Sarah Norman (443-984-2460), bureau chief of Baltimore City Health Department’s Lead, Asthma and Injury Prevention Bureau.

###