



# BCHD PRESS RELEASE

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Baltimore City Health Department  
1001 E. Fayette Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
*Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor – Oxiris Barbot, M.D., Commissioner of Health*

Media Contact: *Brian Schleiter*  
443-984-2623  
[mediahealth@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:mediahealth@baltimorecity.gov)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S SAFE STREETS VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM RECEIVES NEW 3-YEAR, \$2.2 MILLION GRANT**

#### **Program To Add Two New Neighborhood Sites**

**BALTIMORE, MD (September 29, 2011)** – Safe Streets, a Baltimore City-based violence prevention program, has received a \$2.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The award will be used to support existing operations and expand the program to two new locations.

Safe Streets is an innovative initiative of the Baltimore City Health Department, based on the successful Chicago CeaseFire program, which employs a public health approach to violence prevention. The program focuses on youth ages 14-25 years old who are at the highest risk for violence.

"I am pleased that Baltimore City is able to expand this important initiative," said Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. "The progress we have seen through Safe Streets is extremely promising, and it's time to build upon that success and reach out to even more communities."

Launched in 2007, Safe Streets is currently operating in two neighborhoods, McElderry Park and Cherry Hill. An interim evaluation conducted by the Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health found the program effective in reducing shootings and killings. During the time studied, despite a statistical probability of four homicides based on past data in McElderry Park, there was not a single homicide. Currently, the McElderry Park community has gone 270 days without a homicide.

The three-year award is part of OJJDP's Community-Based Violence Prevention Demonstration Program, which provides funding for multi-strategy, multi-disciplinary approaches to reduce gun violence. In addition to providing support to the existing sites the funding will also be used to expand the Safe Streets initiative to an additional two Baltimore communities that are disproportionately impacted by violence. Communities

will be chosen through an open Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The RFP is expected to be released in mid-October.

“The Health Department is excited to have the opportunity to expand Safe Streets and continue our work of using public health approaches to reducing gun violence,” said Commissioner of Health Dr. Oxiris Barbot.

For more information about Safe Streets please contact the Office of Youth Violence Prevention at 443.984.3566 and visit the Health Department Website (<http://www.baltimorehealth.org/safestreets>) and Youth Violence Prevention [Facebook page](#).

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