



STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE

MAYOR

*100 Holliday Street, Room 250
Baltimore, Maryland 21202*

TO: The Honorable Bernard. C. "Jack" Young
and Members of the Baltimore City Council
Room 400 City Hall,
100. N. Holiday Street
Attn: Karen Randle

FROM: Sheryl Goldstein, Director, Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice

DATE: February 11, 2011

RE: City Council Bill No. 10-0237R

City Council Bill No.: **10-0237R – In Support of Proposed State Legislation -
Restrictions Against the Use and Possession of
Firearms**

The Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice (MOCJ) has reviewed this resolution, which indicates the Council's support for State legislation restricting the use and possession of firearms.

The two pieces of legislation that have been introduced in the General Assembly would provide police and prosecutors with more effective tools for reducing gun crime. One bill, Senate Bill 239, would create a minimum sentence of 18 months for all defendants arrested with an illegal, loaded firearm. The other bill, Senate Bill 240, would strengthen sentencing options for felons in possession of guns by creating a tougher sentencing range of 5 years minimum to 15 years maximum, giving judges more sentencing options when faced with a repeat violent offender.



Current laws are too weak and support a culture that tolerates illegal, loaded gun possession on the streets of our city and state. We must do more to continue our fight against violent crime and illegal guns. Stronger gun laws are critical to the continued reduction of gun violence in Baltimore and Maryland.

Thank you for your support.



Sheryl Goldstein
Director

Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice