



## **Sheila Dixon**

*Mayor,*  
Baltimore

---

250 City Hall • Baltimore Maryland 21202  
410-396-3835 • Fax: 410-576-9425

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 9, 2007

**CONTACT:**

**Anthony McCarthy**  
**(410) 869-6079 (Cell)**

## **Mayor Sheila Dixon Signs Alley-Gating Bill; Announce Clean and Green Block Action Plans**

Baltimore, MD (May 9, 2007) – Mayor Sheila Dixon was joined by Councilman James Kraft and community leaders to sign City Council Bill 05-0034, which establishes the standards and procedures for communities to erect gates on alleys.

The “Alley-Gating” bill creates the possibility for property owners to apply for permits to erect gates on alleys that are wider than ten feet. Councilman Kraft and community groups have advocated for this bill since it was introduced in 2005. Alley gates provide additional security for residents, prevent illegal dumping, and create a shared common space that can be safely enjoyed by those whose homes back onto the alley.

“This bill will allow residents to take control of activities that occur around their homes by erecting gates that help safeguard their alleys and prevent illegal dumping and other illicit activities,” said Mayor Dixon. “These gates have proven not only to keep negative elements out, but also help to foster a greater sense of community in a cleaner, greener common space.”

After signing the bill, Mayor Dixon announced a new part of her “Cleaner and Greener” initiative for Baltimore. With the “Clean and Green Block Action Plans”, city government will partner with community groups, churches, businesses and interested residents to clean and beautify specific areas in their neighborhoods. Interested groups can initiate the process right by calling 311.

“These can be as simple as a community requesting a dumpster for a block clean up, or as complicated as communities attacking chronic litter and trash problems that require an ongoing and sustained effort,” said Mayor Dixon. “We are going to work to creatively bring resources together to make Baltimore cleaner and greener one block at a time.”

The city will track the results of these new community-city partnerships and their investments in terms of the debris tonnage removed, landscaping donations, and volunteer workforce. With better tracking of the community-city partnerships, the Mayor hopes city agencies can identify how to provide service more effectively, chronic cleaning and greening problems, and how to collaborate to create better solutions?

###

Please visit our website at [www.baltimorecity.gov](http://www.baltimorecity.gov)