



**Sheila Dixon**

*Mayor,*  
Baltimore

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Mayor Dixon Announces COP Grants**

Baltimore, MD (May 16, 2008) – Mayor Sheila Dixon and Baltimore Police Commissioner Frederick Bealefeld announced a new initiative to assist Citizens on Patrol (COP) groups in Baltimore City.

“COP groups are critical community partners in our effort to make our neighborhoods safe,” said Mayor Dixon. “We are grateful for their participation in our public safety effort. These grants will help them succeed in making their communities great places to live.”

The Citizens on Patrol Community Grant Program will provide up to \$2,500 to COP groups to purchase equipment, supplies or other items to support their work. The needs of COP groups vary as some are walking patrols and others drive. Walking patrol groups may need flashlights, reflective vests, etc. while driving patrols may want to purchase magnetic labels for cars or update equipment used to communicate with police.

In communities with an active COP program, there has been a significant decrease in criminal activity. Additionally, members of COP groups have helped improve the relationships between the police department and communities. Not only is a COP group a crime deterrent, it is also an opportunity for community members to identify infrastructure issues in their neighborhoods (i.e. tree limbs blocking street lights or poorly lit alleys.)

Grant applications are available on the Baltimore City website, [www.baltimorecity.gov](http://www.baltimorecity.gov). Five copies of your application must be submitted to Ms. Elise Odell in the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice no later than June 13, 2008. Applications can be sent to 627 City Hall, 100 North Holliday Street, Baltimore, MD 21202. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Ms. Odell at (443) 984-2372.

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