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Mayor Congratulates Housing and Planning Departments for Winning Award for Innovative Green Building Standards

BALTIMORE, MD (December 23, 2010)—Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake congratulated staff from the Department of Housing and Community Development for winning an award as Innovative Local Market Leaders from the Maryland Chapter of the US Green Building Council.

They were given the award for the Baltimore City Green Building Standards (BCGS), which are designed to achieve certification for green buildings with guidelines that work with Baltimore's unique building and land use issues. The City's consultant on the project, TerraLogos: Eco Architecture, PC is a co-recipient of the award.



"Baltimore new green building standards removed barriers that discouraged developers from pursuing environmentally sustainable developments, and created incentives to go green," said Mayor Rawlings-Blake. "I am proud of the work done by staff from the Housing and Planning Departments to create these new standards, and their recognition is well deserved."

Baltimore Housing, in partnership with the Planning Department, released the new standards in August. The BCBGS provide a quicker, less expensive alternative to the traditional Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification currently required under the Baltimore City Code. The standards apply to newly-constructed or extensively-modified nonresidential or multi-family residential buildings that have or will have at least 10,000 square feet of gross floor area.

As awareness of environmental and energy issues has increased, demand for green buildings has also grown. The BCBGS incorporate elements of the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED rating system and will serve as an 'incentive' for green development without additional cost to developers.

Compliance with these standards will, protect and restore the City's water supply, reduce Baltimore's urban heat island effect, encourage alternative transportation and promote and improve access to more green spaces throughout the City.

"I want to thank the Maryland Chapter of the US Green Building Council for recognizing our efforts to give developers an incentive to go green," said Housing Commissioner Paul T. Graziano. "Our new standards are sensible, effective, enforceable, seamless, and transparent."

"I am very proud of the work that staff from Baltimore Housing and the Office of Sustainability, put into creating Baltimore's Green Building Standards," said Planning Director Tom Stosur. "To have a unique 'Baltimore' standard, based specifically on the goals in our adopted Sustainability Plan, provides added flexibility to developers and has been recognized by many across the country as a significant innovation."

The award will be presented Thursday January 27, 2011 at the Thames Street Wharf at 6:00 p.m. The keynote speaker and award presenter is Scott Plank, Executive Vice President of Business Development for Under Armour, Inc.

For more information about the Maryland Chapter of the US Green Building Council, visit <http://usgbcmd.org/>.

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