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## **Press Release**

### **For Immediate Release**

#### **Councilman James Torrence Urges Baltimore City School Board of Commissioners to Postpone Vote and Renegotiate Lease for Baltimore City College's Swing Space at University of Baltimore**

**Baltimore, MD – May 28, 2024** – Councilman James Torrence calls on the Baltimore City School Board of Commissioners to postpone the upcoming vote on the lease agreement for Baltimore City College's (City College) swing space at the University of Baltimore (UB) to allow renegotiation of the lease terms to extend it to 10-years, ensuring a more equitable and sustainable use of resources for Baltimore City Public City Schools.

The current lease agreement, which involves over \$10 million in expenditures for renovating classrooms, enhancing physical security, upgrading security cameras, and updating ID systems, poses significant financial inequities. These investments, while crucial for City College, come at a time when other schools in the district have had to make difficult sacrifices, including eliminating hall monitors, delaying essential security improvements, and postponing updates to their ID systems.

"It is imperative that we address the disparities in how we allocate our resources across City Schools," said Councilman Torrence. "The proposed renovations and security upgrades for City College at the University of Baltimore are necessary, but we must also consider the needs of our other schools. A longer lease term will not only provide stability for City College but also allow us to include additional schools in future plans, creating a more equitable distribution of resources for the district's entire portfolio of schools slated for renovations."

The current lease agreement's short duration limits the potential benefits for other schools in the district. By extending the lease to 10-years, the district can plan more effectively for long-term improvements across multiple schools, ensuring that all students benefit from enhanced learning environments and improved security measures.

"I urge the Baltimore City School Board of Commissioners to postpone the vote and engage in further negotiations with City Schools' leaders and UB to secure a lease that reflects our commitment to equity and sustainability," Torrence continued. "This approach will enable us to address the immediate needs of City College while also laying the groundwork for future investments in our other schools."

This call to action highlights the need for a comprehensive and inclusive strategy in the management of City Schools' resources by prioritizing equity and long-term planning, the district can ensure that all students have access to safe and well-equipped learning environments.

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