



**Excerpt of Remarks  
Given by The  
Hon. Stephanie  
Rawlings-Blake '95**

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Two weeks ago, our city experienced its darkest moment in nearly a half century. I remember in the aftermath, I was visiting a group of fourth-graders in West Baltimore to talk about what was happening in their neighborhood. After I spoke for a couple of minutes, I was asked a question by a girl no older than nine years old. Her question was as perceptive as it was heartbreaking.

She asked: “Why do people want to destroy OUR neighborhood?” And it occurred to me, here is a nine year old girl who must have been absolutely frightened by what she saw on TV and by what she most likely saw from her bedroom window. But this girl, who is even younger than my daughter, didn’t raise concerns about herself. She didn’t ask “why is this happening to ME?” Instead, she asked about “OUR neighborhood” and about “OUR city.”

In the days following the unrest, I saw that same love, that same spirit, and pride across this city. I saw it in thousands who came from every neighborhood to help clean up debris and start rebuilding the morning right after the violence. I saw it in our first responders on the front lines. I saw it in those ministers and community members who stood directly between law enforcement and

violent instigators putting their own safety at risk to personally de-escalate the tension of a city.

And I saw it with throngs of young people ... who were now proudly marching hand-in-hand calling for justice and for peace, continuing Baltimore’s peaceful tradition in the ongoing pursuit of equality.

... It is because of all of this that I know Baltimore will not be defined by the riots, but rather by the way we BUILD and rebuild.

All of us have a role to play. Whether you are a native Baltimorean, or whether you came to our city for the first time three years ago to begin law school, every member of this graduating class has a piece of Baltimore inside of you. You’re all hons now. We are One Baltimore.

So I call on each of you, no matter where you plan to call home after today, to make a commitment to help this city move forward, in whatever way you can.

Like that inspiring nine year-old, we must put the “OUR” before the “MY.”

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# Commencement



Students, families, and friends gathered May 15 for the university-wide commencement ceremony honoring approximately 2,000 graduates from the schools of medicine, law, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, social work, and the Graduate School at UMB.



At Maryland Carey Law's hooding ceremony May 14, a total of 251 JD and LLM students walked across the stage at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall to receive their hoods. The Hon. Stephanie Rawlings-Blake '95, mayor of Baltimore, delivered the commencement address. Other speakers included Dean Donald Tobin; Mary Biscoe, president of the day students division; and Timothy Rice, president of the evening students division.