**PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CITY PARTNERS WITH CODE IN THE SCHOOLS**

**BALTIMORE, MD, January 17, 2018** — Today, the City of Baltimore through the Department of General Services (DGS) and the Mayor’s Office of Information Technology (MOIT) announced a partnership with Code in the Schools to provide Baltimore City students with access to real challenges faced by City agencies and an opportunity to advance their coding skills.

“Computing jobs are the #1 source of new wages in the United States,” explained Mayor Catherine E. Pugh. “Baltimore has an excellent infrastructure for an expansive technology sector, and we know that it will start with not only educating our youth, but also creating the opportunities for our youth to thrive with their skills in their communities.”

The City and Code in the Schools are piloting the collaboration to build a competitive local labor force and a pipeline for computational careers within city government. In this new partnership program, high school students will build their computer science foundation skills in Python (a computer coding language) through secondary education computer science courses at Code in the Schools. The students will then use these new skills to work with the Department of General Services on real challenges that can be solved with the critical thinking and computer science skills developed in their classes.

“We use computer programming and data analysis every day at DGS,” Steve Sharkey, Director of the Department of General Services said. He continued, “DGS is responsible for maintaining all city buildings and fleet—next time you’re out, look out for all of the cars on the road with a Baltimore City logo on the side or a building with a city seal; we do projects in building and fleet maintenance and construction, and we work with every agency in the city. This means that we have a lot of information, and we need to make sure that we’re doing a good job at understanding and acting on that information.”

“Code in the Schools is excited to partner with The City to provide Baltimore City students the opportunity to gain 21st century skills while working on real-world projects alongside IT professionals,” said Gretchen LeGrand, Executive Director of Code in the Schools. “This collaboration will serve as a model for further programming that ensures Baltimore City residents are included in our local innovation economy.”

The program will culminate with students showcasing their computer science solutions to the Department of General Services and other Baltimore City agency leaders, during which time, at least one of the students will be offered a summer internship opportunity with the Department of General Services to implement their solution in the department.

“We need to make sure that we’re not only fostering a computer science and critical-thinking mindset within our youth but also within our city, and, specifically, within Baltimore city government,” the Mayor concluded.

**About the Department of General Services**

The Department of General Services is committed to providing high quality and cost-effective support services to the citizens of Baltimore. DGS’s Business Process Improvement Office improves division performance and operations by streamlining processes, exposing inefficiencies and introducing new standard procedures. Creating the optimal process environment is the mission of the team.

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