**PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CITY PARTNERS WITH CODE IN THE SCHOOLS**

**BALTIMORE, MD, January 31, 2018** — Wednesday, Mayor Catherine E. Pugh announced a groundbreaking partnership launched by the Department of General Services (DGS) and the Mayor’s Office of Information Technology (MOIT) in collaboration with Code in the Schools to prepare Baltimore City students for technical careers government services.

“This is a really great partnership. We talk about teaching young people technology and getting them engaged,” explained Mayor Catherine E. Pugh. She continued, “Computing jobs are the #1 source of new wages in the United States with a half million current openings in the United State.”

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 DGS 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—we are the ones who repairs those. We also have a lot of data and information.”

“We are just thrilled about this partnership,” said Gretchen LeGrand, Executive Director of Code in the Schools. The collaboration will “help students who are ready to advance their careers, and potentially college, and take their advanced skills to work with the City.”

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

**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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