

Cole files for council seat, ending speculation on council president bid

By Julie Scharper, *Baltimore Sun*, April 28, 2011

Councilman William H. Cole IV announced today that he has filed to run for the seat representing the 11th district, ending speculation that he would run to be council president.

On his Facebook page, Cole wrote: "I filed for re-election today. I didn't send out a press release or march across the city -- I just walked in with my \$50 in hand and filed. This is the toughest job I've ever had, but I've enjoyed every minute of the challenge. Thanks to all of my constituents, friends, and family (particularly Michelle White Cole) for the tremendous support and encouragement. I'm looking forward to four more years."

Cole attempted to sway his colleagues to elect him council president last year when Stephanie Rawlings-Blake was elevated from that seat to the mayor's office. Despite Rawlings-Blake's behind-the-scenes support for Cole, the majority of council members supported Bernard C. "Jack" Young to become council president.

Young is currently running unopposed to retain the council president's seat.

Under a redistricting plan proposed by Rawlings-Blake and approved by the council last month, Cole's 11th district will change substantially in December. The district will include all of Federal Hill, South Baltimore and Locust Point and no longer include Reservoir Hill and parts of Pigtown.

It is unlikely Cole will face a serious challenger for the seat. The 38-year-old father of three is popular among his constituents and has a close working relationship with Rawlings-Blake. Veteran fundraiser Colleen Martin-Lauer -- who raises money for Rawlings-Blake and Gov. Martin O'Malley-- has worked on Cole's campaigns.

Within a few hours of Cole updating his Facebook status, more than 50 people had "liked" his decision to run again for council.