
CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
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September 1, 2021

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Attn: Executive Secretary
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 21-0108 – City Property – Renaming James Mosher
Elementary School to Billie Holiday Elementary School

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 21-0108 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would rename the James Mosher Elementary School to be the Billie Holiday Elementary School. The Baltimore City Code allows for the naming of property by ordinance. City Code, Art. 5, § 20-2. There are no requirements for the name of real or personal property as there are for names of streets. City Code, Art. 26, §7-1, *et. seq.*

The bill that proposes the ordinance must be referred to the Planning Commission, the municipal agency that will have control over the City property, the Department of Real Estate and any other agency that has an interest in the property. City Code, Art. 5, § 20-2(b). The First Reader version of this bill states that it was referred to the City Solicitor, Planning Commission, and the Departments of Transportation, Finance and Real Estate, as well as the Baltimore Development Corporation and the Baltimore City Public School System. Assuming the Baltimore City Public School System has control over the school building, the bill has been properly referred and the Law Department can approve it for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

Hilary Ruley
Chief Solicitor

cc: James L. Shea, City Solicitor
Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Victor Tervalá, Chief Solicitor
Ashlea Brown, Assistant Solicitor