



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Christine Griffin, Deputy Director of Policy and Government Relations

Date: August 18, 2023

Re: 23-0412 City Property - Renaming Playground at Hanlon Park After Ruby K. Couch

Position: Support

The Department of Real Estate is responding to the request for a report on City Council bill 23-0412 City Property - Renaming Playground at Hanlon Park After Ruby K. Couch. The purpose of this bill is to change the name of the playground at Hanlon Park, located at 2731 North Longwood Street, to the Ruby K. Couch Playground. The bill would take effect 30 days after it is enacted.

Ruby K. Couch resided in the Hanlon neighborhood for 66 years, working tirelessly for the community. As a founding member and past president of the Hanlon Improvement Association, she maintained a high profile throughout her years in the Hanlon neighborhood. Mrs. Couch was wholly committed to the quality of life in Hanlon and was referred to by community members as the “Matriarch of Hanlon” and a “true neighbor to all.”

Mrs. Couch was instrumental in securing a historical designation for Hanlon Park and through her leadership efforts she ensured the park was well maintained, and improvements continued to be made. In her later years, she played Sudoku and walked around Hanlon Park Reservoir every day.

Naming the playground at Hanlon Park after Ruby K. Couch is a fitting way to honor her legacy and recognize her many contributions to the Hanlon community, Hanlon Park, and the City of Baltimore.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Real Estate supports the passage of 23-0412.

CC:

Celeste Amato, Chief of Staff, Comptroller’s Office
Eric Evans, Director of Real Estate, Comptroller’s Office
KC Kelleher, Director of Communications and Policy, Comptroller’s Office
Nina Themelis, Mayor’s Office