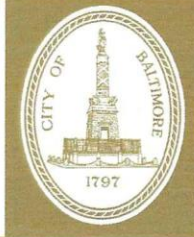


CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT, Mayor



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

LARRY E. GREENE, Director
415 City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
410-396-7215 / Fax: 410-545-7596
email: larry.greene@baltimorecity.gov

BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Economic and Community Development

Bill: 21-0109

**City Property - Renaming Calverton Elementary/Middle School to
Katherine Johnson Global Academy**

Sponsor: Councilmember Bullock

Introduced: July 19, 2021

Purpose:

For the purpose of changing the name of Calverton Elementary/Middle School, located at 201 North Bend Road, to Katherine Johnson Global Academy.

Effective: The 30th day after the date it is enacted

Agency Reports

City Solicitor	
Planning Commission	Favorable / Amendment
Baltimore City Public School System	Comments
Department of Transportation	No Objection
Baltimore Development Corporation	
Department of Finance	No Objection
Department of Real Estate	

Analysis

Current Law

Article 5 – Finance, Property, and Procurement; Section 20-2; Baltimore City Revised Code (Edition 2000).

In general, City property shall be named or renamed by an ordinance of the Mayor and City Council. When a bill is introduced it must be referred to the Planning Commission; the municipal agency that has or will have control over the City property; the Department of Real Estate; and any other agency that may have an interest in naming the City property. (City Code, 1976/83, art. 1, §229(b), (c).) (Ord. 89-268.)

Background

Bill 21-0109 proposes to change the name of Calverton Elementary/Middle School to Katherine Johnson Global Academy. Bill 21-0109 indicates that the school is located at 201 North Bend Road. The school, however, is located at 1100 Whitmore Avenue in the Bridgeview/ Greenlawn Community of West Baltimore. The Planning Commission is proposing an amendment to correct the address.

Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) conducts their renaming process in accordance with Baltimore City Public Schools' Naming/Renaming School Facility Regulation (FFA-RA), which includes engagement of school leaders, students, teachers, elected officials as well as community organizations and groups, and interested citizens.

The Katherine Johnson Global Academy will serve elementary and middle school students. The school is the zoned middle school for the area and also offering grades 6 to 8.

Katherine Johnson, a native of West Virginia, graduated West Virginia State summa cum laude with degrees in mathematics and French. She worked at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). She served as a key asset for NASA performing calculations for the historic 1969 Apollo 11 trip to the moon. She also provided valuable assistance when Apollo 13 experienced a malfunction in space. Her contributions to contingency procedures helped ensure Apollo 13's safe return. She continued to help develop NASA's Space Shuttle program and Earth Resources Satellite, until her retirement in 1986.

In November 2015, President Barack Obama presented Katherine Johnson with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Margot Lee Shetterly's 2016 book "Hidden Figures: The American Dream and

the Untold Story of the Black Women Who Helped Win the Space Race” celebrated the little-known story of Johnson and her fellow African American women who would compute complex calculations for NASA. Their story was made into a film entitled “Hidden Figures” (2016), starring actress Taraji P. Henson as Katherine Johnson. The film won an Oscar nomination. A year later, in September 2017, 99-year-old Katherine Johnson was honored by NASA, with the dedication of a new research building which is named after her – the Katherine G. Johnson Computational Research Facility.

Ms. Johnson passed away on February 24, 2020. She was 101 years old.

Amendment

The Planning Commission proposes an amendment to correct the address cited in the bill. The correct address for the building is 1100 Whitmore Avenue.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: Not Available

Information Source(s): Reporting Agencies and Bill 21-0109

Analysis by: Jennifer L. Coates

Direct Inquiries to: 410-396-1260

Analysis Date: November 2, 2021