


<b>F R O M</b>	Name & Title	Steve Sharkey, Director <i>SS</i>	CITY OF BALTIMORE  <b>MEMO</b>	
	Agency Name & Address	Department of General Services 800 Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
	Subject	<b>Support for City Council Bill 17-0154 - City Property - Naming the Building, Informally Known as the MECU Building, to be the Councilman Harry S. Cummings Building</b>		

**TO:** The Honorable President and Members  
of the City Council  
c/o Natwana B. Austin  
Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council  
400 City Hall

**DATE:** October 24, 2017

**Re:** Support for 17-0154 - City Property - Naming the Building, Informally Known as the MECU Building, to be the Councilman Harry S. Cummings Building

The Department of General Services reviewed City Council Bill 17-0154 - City Property - Naming the Building, Informally Known as the MECU Building, to be the Councilman Harry S. Cummings Building. The building is located at 401 East Fayette Street, and is managed and maintained by the Department. The Department firmly supports City Council Bill 17-0154.

Councilman Harry S. Cummings was Baltimore's first black city councilman and arguably the most influential African American in the city for two and a half decades. In an era of intense racial discrimination, Cummings worked hard on behalf of his constituents. Though the councilman had to tread lightly on untested ground to avoid endangering his pioneering position, he nevertheless managed to enact legislation that benefitted the lives of those he represented. The Department of General Services fundamentally agrees that it is fitting that a building be named to honor his accomplishment as the first African American member of the Baltimore City Council.

The naming of the building will not create a cost burden or any adverse effects on the department. However, the department would appreciate a proper amount of time to complete the current construction occurring at 401 East Fayette. The few additional months will also allow General Services to properly design and procure the new signage, which will be needed to properly identify the building.

The Department of General Services thanks the committee for the opportunity to weigh in on this piece of legislation and urges support of City Council Bill 17-0154.

SS:rpt

cc: Kyron Banks