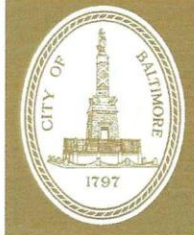


**CITY OF BALTIMORE**

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: 21-0179**

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**City Property - Naming a Skate Park in the Joseph H. Rash  
Playfield to be Jake's Skate Park**

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**Sponsor:** Councilmember Costello

**Introduced:** November 15, 2021

**Purpose:**

For the purpose of naming a portion of the Joseph H. Rash Playfield (Block 890, Lot 006), to be located at the coordinates of 39.281387, - 76.610944, Jake's Skate Park.

**Effective:** The 30<sup>th</sup> day after the date it is enacted

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**Agency Reports**

City Solicitor	Favorable
Planning Commission	Favorable
Department of Recreation and Parks	Favorable
Baltimore Development Corporation	Favorable
Department of Real Estate	Favorable

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## 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 21-0179 proposes to change the name of Joseph H. Rash Playfield to Jake's Skate Park. The bill indicates that the park is located at the coordinates of 39.281387, - 76.610944 in the Inner Harbor Area.

Jake Owen, a five-year old resident of Federal Hill, died as a result of an automobile collision. Jake was an avid skateboarder and sports enthusiast. He also played baseball and soccer. Jake's favorite colors were Purple and Orange, inspired by his hometown sports teams, the Baltimore Ravens and the Baltimore Orioles.

Jake's family advocated for changes to Maryland's laws. Jake's Law, signed in 2014 by then governor Martin O'Malley, imposes a one-year jail term for drivers who cause a serious crash while using a handheld device.

The recently renovated Joseph H. Rash Playfield opened in 2021. The playfield includes Jake's Skate Park, Adventure Park, which has a pair of 35-foot wooden towers for skyline viewing, and an overlook at the BGE Pavilion. The playfield also features native birds and flowers in the Nature Park.

To honor Jake's life, Waterfront Partnership helped to build the skatepark and dedicated the park in Jake's name. Jake's Skate Park was designed by Grindline, one of the top concrete skatepark and design companies in the country. The park features a large bowl, mini ramps, rails, ledges, and transfers providing a dedicated space that will be accessible for skaters of all ages and abilities. Approval of Bill 21-0179 would authorize the City to change the name of Joseph H. Rash Playfield to Jake's Skate Park.

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### **Additional Information**

**Fiscal Note:** Not Available

**Information Source(s):** Reporting Agencies and Bill 21-0179

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Analysis by: Jennifer L. Coates

Direct Inquiries to: 410-396-1260

Analysis Date: February 3, 2021