

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 13-0273  
(First Reader)**

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Introduced by: Councilmember Welch

At the request of: Leon Day Foundation, Inc.

Address: c/o Richard K. Harris, 8663 Hayshed Lane, Columbia, Maryland 21045

Telephone: 443-825-8893

Introduced and read first time: October 7, 2013

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Planning Commission, Department of Real Estate, Department of Recreation and Parks

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **City Property – Naming the Building in Leon Day Park to be**  
3 **the Betty Hawkins Community Center**

4 FOR the purpose of naming the building in Leon Day Park, the Park being located south of  
5 Franklintown Road and east of the Gwynns Falls stream and the Western Maryland Railroad,  
6 to be the Betty Hawkins Community Center.

7 BY authority of

8 Article 5 - Finance, Property, and Procurement

9 Section 20-2

10 Baltimore City Code

11 (Edition 2000)

12 **Recitals**

13 Betty Hawkins, a longtime resident of the Rosemont Community, passed away  
14 in July 2012, at the age of 84. She was one of the people instrumental in the  
15 renovation and renaming of Bloomingdale Oval Park to Leon Day Park in honor  
16 of Leon Day, the Hall of Fame Negro League baseball player who resided in the  
17 Rosemont community.

18 The Leon Day Park was important in her life. In addition to being one of the  
19 founders who established the Leon Day Foundation and who served as treasurer of  
20 the Foundation for ten years, she secured Park permits each year for the Leon Day  
21 Family Festival and also represented the Foundation in its Leon Day Park  
22 partnership with the Department of Recreation and Parks on its cleanup and  
23 maintenance program. She, along with several of her neighbors, was diligent in  
24 seeing that the Leon Day Park restrooms were cleaned and the trash picked up and  
25 placed in containers.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 Betty Hawkins also participated in a number of other community  
2 organizations, including the Friends of Gwynns Falls Trails, Alliance of  
3 Rosemont Community Organization, and Baltimore Health Disparities. Although  
4 having no children of her own, she was like a grandmother to many children in her  
5 neighborhood and held every year a “Back-to-School” give-away of school  
6 supplies for neighborhood children, until she became ill. She also held  
7 fundraisers for the Leon Day Foundation to support its youth sports program and  
8 was one of the persons instrumental in securing a grant from the Baltimore  
9 Ravens for the improvement of Leon Day Park.

10 It would be fitting to name the building in Leon Day Park the Betty Hawkins  
11 Community Center, in honor of a person who contributed so much to her  
12 community and to Leon Day Park.

13 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
14 building located in Leon Day Park, the Park being located south of Franklinton Road and east  
15 of the Gwynns Falls stream and the Western Maryland Railroad, is named the Betty Hawkins  
16 Community Center.

17 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30<sup>th</sup> day  
18 after the date it is enacted.