



HEARING NOTES

Bill: 21-0068R

Informational Hearing - Naming City Properties

Committee: Economic and Community Development

Chaired By: Councilwoman Sharon Green Middleton

Hearing Date: December 14, 2021

Time (Beginning): 3:00 PM

Time (Ending): 3:45 PM

Location: Virtual WEBEX

Total Attendance: Approximately 30

Committee Members in Attendance:

John Bullock Mark Conway Ryan Dorsey Antonio Glover Robert Stokes Odette Ramos

Bill Synopsis in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Attendance sheet in the file?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Agency reports read?.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Video or audio-digitally recorded?.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners?.....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Final vote taken at this hearing?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a

Motioned by:.....Councilmember Odette Ramos

Seconded by:.....Councilmember Mark Conway

Final Vote:.....Favorable

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Victor Terval, Department of Law
- Eric Holcomb, Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation
- Chi-Chi Nyagah-Nash, Department of General Services

- Jenny Morgan, Department of Recreation and Parks
 - KC Kelleher, Department of Real Estate
 - Justin Lane, Baltimore Development Corporation
 - Liam Davis, Department of Transportation
 - Nina Themelis, Office of the Mayor
 - Lindsey Anderson, Baltimore City Public Schools
 - Melissa Broome, Baltimore City Public Schools
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Major Issues Discussed

1. Chairwoman Middleton opened the meeting, introduced committee members and City representatives and read the bill into the record. As the primary sponsor of the bill, she commented about the purpose of the bill emphasizing the need to take a look at current criteria and processes for naming of public facilities and streets. She emphasized that a streamlined process should be created for naming properties.
2. Agency representatives testified on behalf of their respective agencies.
3. Victor Tervalo testified on behalf of the Office of the City Solicitor. He presented key points from the agency's report. He indicated that the Baltimore City Charter and Baltimore City Code specify which government entities may authorize the naming of government property. He noted that the Department of Transportation is responsible for approving the names of "new" streets. The City Code has specific guidelines for naming and renaming streets. If a regulation is needed to create a uniform process for all agencies by formulation of a program, then legislation will be needed.
4. Councilmember Dorsey questioned what was meant by "the name shall be given to the entire length of a street." Victor Tervalo stated that the term "entire length of a street" could be clarified in the Code.
5. Chi-Chi Nyagah-Nash testified on behalf of the Department of General Services (DGS) emphasizing that DGS generally does not propose name changes, but rather focuses on maintenance and providing for the design and installation of signage once a facility is named.
6. Liam Davis testified on behalf of the Department of Transportation (DOT) and emphasized that DOT is responsible for the naming of streets and street signage. DOT is revising its ceremonial street sign process to meet American Planning Association standards. The new policy will have clear guidelines. The chair requested that the new ceremonial street naming process be shared.
7. The Department of Real Estate does not have a process in place for the naming of property and generally, when asked to review the naming of property, defers to the agency which has responsibility for the property.
8. Baltimore Development Corporation does not have a process for the naming of property and generally defers to the bill sponsor and area planner when reviewing name changes.
9. Chris Holcombe testified on behalf of the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation. He stated that CHAP is exploring creating a commission to review and report on contested property under its control. The same process could be used and enhanced for reviewing the proposed names of properties. He is hopeful that a commission or program can be created to streamline the process.
10. Councilmember Bullock emphasized that there should be coordination of the process.

11. Melissa Broome testified on behalf of Baltimore City Public Schools emphasizing that the school system already has a process in place to engage stakeholders for naming facilities. There is a difference between naming a school building and a school program.
12. Jenny Morgan testified on behalf of the Department of Recreation and Parks emphasizing that a letter explaining the basis of the request must be written to the director and an escrow account is requested for maintenance of the property. She shared a copy of the guidelines from the Department of Recreation and Parks.
13. Councilmember Ramos emphasized the need for a streamlined, centralized comprehensive process for naming. She also pointed out that the criteria to be used for naming should be fully developed.
14. According to the Law Department a streamlined process could be established through the creation of a program via legislation or via a directive for all agencies from the Executive Branch.
15. Lindsey Anderson commented about criteria for BCPS' policy.
16. The hearing was adjourned.

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

Committee Vote:

Sharon Green Middleton, Chair Yea
 John Bullock: Yea
 Mark Conway: Yea
 Ryan Dorsey: Yea
 Antonio Glover: Yea
 Robert Stokes: Yea
 Odette Ramos: Yea

Jennifer L. Coates, Committee Staff

Date: December 14, 2021

cc: Bill File
 OCS Chrono File