

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 23-0412  
(First Reader)**

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Introduced by: Councilmember Torrence

Introduced and read first time: July 17, 2023

Assigned to: Economic and Community Development Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Planning Commission, Department of Recreation and Parks, Baltimore Development Corporation, Department of Transportation, Department of Finance, Department of Real Estate

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **City Property – Renaming Playground at Hanlon Park After Ruby K. Couch**

3 FOR the purpose of changing the name of the playground at Hanlon Park, located at 2731 North  
4 Longwood Street, to the Ruby K. Couch Playground.

5 BY authority of

6 Article 5 - Finance, Property, and Procurement

7 Section 20-2

8 Baltimore City Code

9 (Edition 2000)

10 **Recitals**

11 Mrs. Ruby K. Couch was a dedicated community leader, known as the “Matriarch of  
12 Hanlon”. She was a founding member of the Hanlon Improvement Association and later became  
13 president. Mrs. Couch worked diligently to unite the neighborhood by promoting public service,  
14 environmental justice, community engagement, youth mentoring, and more. Her extensive  
15 volunteer efforts included educational advocacy, political engagement, and increasing resources  
16 for the neighborhood’s most vulnerable members. Additionally, much of the beautification and  
17 maintenance of Hanlon Park can be attributed to Mrs. Couch’s leadership and organizing efforts.  
18 One of Mrs. Couch’s many accomplishments includes helping to secure a historical designation  
19 for Hanlon Park. For all of Mrs. Couch’s leadership and activism, this bill renames the Hanlon  
20 Park playground as “Ruby K. Couch Playground”.

21 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
22 name of the playground at Hanlon Park, located at 2731 North Longwood Street, is changed to  
23 the Ruby K. Couch Playground.

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

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