

BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG
Mayor
250 City Hall, 100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

November 16, 2020

The Honorable Brandon Scott, President
Baltimore City Council
Attn: Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 20-0549 – City Property – Renaming the Columbus Obelisk
Monument to the Victims of Police Violence Memorial

Dear President Scott:

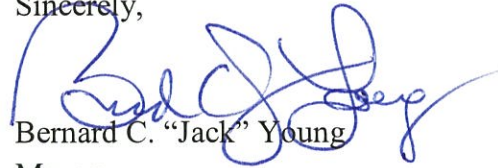
After careful consideration and for the reasons stated in this letter, I am vetoing City Council Bill 20-0549 in accordance with Article IV, Section 5 of the Baltimore City Charter.

The monument to be renamed by this ordinance is close to another memorial honoring police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Before the ordinance was passed, Commissioner Harrison spoke to members of the Council and expressed his belief that placing the memorials in such close proximity diminishes the sacrifice of officers who have died in the line of duty and does a disservice to their families. I agree with the Commissioner that both memorials are important, and that they should be places for reflection and remembrance, free of disruption and divisiveness.

Baltimore remains in a moment of reckoning as we seek to rebuild the trust between our police and the communities they serve. As we look to remember people who have been harmed by those in the policing profession, I am confident in Baltimore's ability to do so in meaningful and productive ways.

For the above stated reasons, I have vetoed City Council Bill 20-0549.

Sincerely,



Bernard C. "Jack" Young
Mayor

CC: Honorable Members of the City Council
Matthew Stegman, Mayor's Legislative Liaison
Michael Huber, Chief of Staff to the Council President
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Victor Tervalá, Chief Solicitor
Natawna Austin, Chief Clerk