

TJA

FROM	NAME & TITLE	THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 TH FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #15-0531/CITY PROPERTY – NAMING THE MARBLE FOUNTAIN IN PATTERSON PARK TO BE THE DR. LEVI WATKINS, JR. MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



TO

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 North Holliday Street

DATE: May 5, 2015

The Planning Department is in receipt of City Council Bill #15-0531 for a review.

The bill is introduced for the purpose of naming The Marble Fountain in Patterson Park, located at the entrance on Patterson Park Avenue at Lombard Street, adjacent to the property known as 27 South Patterson Park Avenue, to be the Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr. Memorial Fountain.

The Planning Department understands that Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr. was the first African American admitted to the Vanderbilt School of Medicine, in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1968, at the time that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was murdered, he was still the only African American at that medical school. In 1970, he graduated from Vanderbilt and was the first African American to do so.

The department also has learned that he moved to Baltimore where he was the first African American intern at Johns Hopkins University Medical School. From 1973 to 1975, he studied at Harvard Medical School Department of Physiology, performing breakthrough research into the role of the renin angiotensin system in congestive heart failure. When he returned to Johns Hopkins in 1975, he became the first African American chief resident in heart surgery at the university.

At Johns Hopkins in 1980, he was a pioneer in performing the first implantation of an automatic defibrillator, a small battery-powered device that detects arrhythmia in the heart and emits an electric shock to correct it and which has saved over a million lives in subsequent years.

Considering he was a great friend to Patterson Park and being a cofounder of the Parks Wine-Tasting at Sunset Fundraiser, now in its 11th year; being a long-time supporter of the Friends of Patterson Park and an advocate for the importance of youth recreation opportunities.
Naming the marble fountain in his honor will be an excellent tribute to his contributions

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Wolde Ararsa, Division Chief, Land Use and Urban Design Division at 410-396-4488.

TJS/WA

Attachment

- cc: Ms. Kaliopie Parthemos, Chief of Staff
- Mr. Colin Tarbert, Deputy Mayor for Economic and Neighborhood Development
- Mr. Leon Pinkett, Assistant Deputy Mayor for Economic and Neighborhood Development
- Ms. Angela Gibson, Mayor's Office
- The Honorable Rochelle "Rikki" Spector, Council Rep. to Planning Commission
- Ms. Barbara Zektick, DOT
- Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services
- Ms. Elena DiPietro, Law Dept.