

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Council Bill 18-0216**

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Introduced by: Councilmember Stokes, President Young, Councilmembers Henry, Dorsey,  
Bullock, Burnett, Pinkett, Schleifer, Reisinger, Clarke, Cohen, Middleton, Scott

Introduced and read first time: April 16, 2018

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

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Committee Report: Favorable

Council action: Adopted

Read second time: June 25, 2018

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**AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING**

**City Property – Renaming Ambrose Kennedy Park to  
Henrietta Lacks Educational Park**

FOR the purpose of changing the name of Ambrose Kennedy Park, located at 1002 Harford  
Avenue, to Henrietta Lacks Educational Park.

BY authority of

Article 5 - Finance, Property, and Procurement

Section 20-2

Baltimore City Code

(Edition 2000)

**Recitals**

In January 1951, Henrietta Lacks, an African American woman, went to The  
Johns Hopkins Hospital because of abnormal pain and bleeding, and she was  
diagnosed with cervical cancer. During subsequent radiation treatments, doctors  
removed 2 cervical samples from her, without her knowledge. She died later that  
year of the disease.

The cells from her tumor made their way to the laboratory of researcher Dr.  
George Otto Gey, where he noticed that they had an unusual property, that of  
durability, unlike most cells that survived only a few days. He isolated and  
multiplied a specific cell, thus creating a cell line that he named HeLa, derived  
from the name of Henrietta Lacks.

The HeLa strain revolutionized medical research. Jonas Salk used the strain to  
develop the polio vaccine, sparking much scientific interest in the cells. Since  
then over 10,000 patents involving HeLa cells have been registered, and  
researchers have used the cells to study disease.

**EXPLANATION:** CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.  
Underlining indicates matter added to the bill by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by  
amendment or deleted from existing law by amendment.

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1 In honor of her contributions to medical research, Morgan State University  
2 granted Henrietta Lacks a posthumous honorary degree. It is fitting that this park,  
3 located at 1002 Harford Avenue, be renamed to honor her.

4 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
5 name of Ambrose Kennedy Park, located at 1002 Harford Avenue, is changed to Henrietta Lacks  
6 Educational Park.

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

Certified as duly passed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to Her Honor, the Mayor,  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

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Mayor, Baltimore City