


<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR	CITY of BALTIMORE <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 <sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET		
	SUBJECT	CCB # 17- 0154 / CITY PROPERTY- NAMING THE BUILDING, INFORMALLY KNOWN AS THE MECU BUILDING, TO BE THE COUNCILMAN HARRY S. CUMMINGS BUILDING		

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

DATE: November 16, 2017

The Department of Planning has received City Council Bill #17- 0154 for the purpose of naming the building located at 401 East Fayette Street, informally known as the MECU Building, the Councilman Harry S. Cummings Building.

Harry Sythe Cummings, Baltimore's first African-American Councilman, was born in Baltimore's Eleventh Ward, in 1866, and educated in Baltimore's public schools. In 1886, he graduated from Lincoln University, an institution of higher learning that was then known as the "Black Princeton" because of its Princeton-educated founder, its early faculty, and its rigorous classical curriculum. He then graduated from the University of Maryland Law School, in 1889. Mr. Cummings political career commenced in 1890, when he was elected to City Council representing the Eleventh Ward.

The Department of Planning supports the renaming of the building located at 401 East Fayette Street to the Councilman Harry S. Cummings Building

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

Attachment

TJS/WA

- cc: Mr. Pete Hammen, Chief Operating Officer  
Mr. Jim Smith, Chief of Strategic Alliances  
Ms. Karen Stokes, Mayor's Office  
Mr. Kyron Banks, Mayor's Office  
Mr. Colin Tarbert, Mayor's Office  
The Honorable Edward Reisinger, Council Rep. to Planning Commission  
Mr. David Tanner, BMZA  
Mr. Geoffrey Veale, Zoning Administration  
Ms. Sharon Daboin, DHCD  
Mr. Patrick Fleming, DOT  
Ms. Elena DiPietro, Law Dept.  
Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services  
Mr. Francis Burnszynski, PABC



**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 17-0154  
(First Reader)**

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

Introduced and read first time: October 16, 2017

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Planning Commission, Department of  
Real Estate, Department of General Services

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **City Property – Naming the Building, Informally Known as the**  
3 **MECU Building, to be the Councilman Harry S. Cummings Building**

4 FOR the purpose of naming the building located at 401 East Fayette Street, informally known as  
5 the MECU Building, the Councilman Harry S. Cummings Building.

6 BY authority of

7 Article 5 - Finance, Property, and Procurement

8 Section 20-2

9 Baltimore City Code

10 (Edition 2000)

11 **Recitals**

12 Harry Sythe Cummings, Baltimore's first African-American Councilman, was  
13 born in Baltimore's Eleventh Ward, in 1866, and educated in Baltimore's public  
14 schools. In 1886, he graduated from Lincoln University, an institution of higher  
15 learning that was then known as the "Black Princeton" because of its Princeton-  
16 educated founder, its early faculty, and its rigorous classical curriculum. He then  
17 graduated from the University of Maryland Law School, in 1889, one of the first  
18 two African-Americans to do so.

19 His political career commenced in 1890, when he was elected to City Council  
20 from the Ward in which he was born. At that time, each Councilman selected a  
21 candidate for a full scholarship to the Maryland Institute. Harry Cummings  
22 selected Harry S. Pratt, an African-American. Maryland Institute refused to honor  
23 Pratt's scholarship, and Cummings then prevailed in the courts on behalf of this  
24 young man.

25 He was also known as the Father of Colored Polytechnic, for his efforts in  
26 promoting the establishment of the high school.

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

**Council Bill 17-0154**

1           Although reelected in 1891, he lost in 1892, and was reelected in 1897. After that  
2           term expired, he practiced law and was later elected to a 4-year term in 1907,  
3           1911, and again in 1915. In an era of intense racial discrimination, he worked  
4           hard on behalf of his constituents. It is fitting that a building be named to honor  
5           his accomplishment as the first African-American member of the Baltimore City  
6           Council.

7           **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
8           building located at 401 East Fayette Street, informally known as the MECU Building, is named  
9           the Councilman Harry S. Cummings Building.

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