

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 11-0686
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Cole, D’Adamo, Curran, Kraft, Stokes, Holton, President
Young, Councilmembers Middleton, Welch, Reisinger, Conaway

Introduced and read first time: April 11, 2011

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

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

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **City Property – Renaming the Upton Boxing Center to the Joe Gans Boxing Center**

3 FOR the purpose of changing the name of the Upton Boxing Center, located at 1901
4 Pennsylvania Avenue, to the Joe Gans Boxing Center.

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 Joe Gans, the first African American World Boxing Champion, was born in
12 Baltimore in 1874. Nicknamed the “Old Master”, he is considered to be the
13 greatest lightweight boxer of all time, and pound-for pound he is considered to be
14 one of the greatest boxers of all time. He started boxing professionally in
15 Baltimore around 1891, and from 1902 to 1908, he reigned as lightweight
16 champion. His boxing career encompassed 188 total fights, of which he won 138.

17 He was originally named Joseph Gant, but in a newspaper article he was referred
18 to as Joe Gans, a name that remained with him for the rest of his life. He died in
19 1910, of tuberculosis, and is buried in Baltimore’s Mount Auburn Cemetery. His
20 monument is maintained by the International Boxing Commission and sits just to
21 the left of the main entrance to the cemetery.

22 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
23 name of the Upton Boxing Center, located at 1901 Pennsylvania Avenue, is changed to the Joe
24 Gans Boxing Center.

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

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