



FROM	NAME & TITLE	CHRIS RYER, DIRECTOR 	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 TH FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #21-0179 / CITY PROPERTY - NAMING A SKATE PARK IN THE JOSEPH H. RASH PLAYFIELD TO BE JAKE'S SKATE PARK		

TO

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

DATE: December 21, 2021

At its regular meeting of December 16, 2021, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #21-0179, for the purpose of naming a portion of the Joseph H. Rash Playfield (Block 890, Lot 006), to be located at the coordinates of 39.281387, - 76.610944, Jake's Skate Park.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached staff report, which recommended approval of City Council Bill #21-0179 and adopted the following resolutions, with nine members being present (nine in favor):

RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission concurs with the recommendation of its departmental staff, recommends that City Council Bill #21-0179 be **approved** by the City Council.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eric Tiso, Division Chief, Land Use and Urban Design Division at 410-396-8358.

CR/ewt

attachment

cc: Ms. Natasha Mehu, Mayor's Office
Ms. Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office
The Honorable Eric Costello, Council Rep. to Planning Commission
Mr. Matthew Stegman, City Council President's Office
Ms. Nikki Thompson, City Council President's Office
Mr. Colin Tarbert, BDC
Ms. Kathleen Byrne, BMZA
Mr. Geoffrey Veale, Zoning Administration
Ms. Stephanie Murdock, DHCD
Ms. Elena DiPietro, Law Dept.
Mr. Francis Burnszynski, PABC
Mr. Liam Davis, DOT
Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION

Sean D. Davis, Chairman

STAFF REPORT



Chris Ryer
Director

December 16, 2021

REQUEST: City Council Bill #21-0179- City Property- Naming a Skate Park in the Joseph H. Rash Playfield to be Jake's Skate Park

For the purpose of naming a portion of the Joseph H. Rash Playfield (Block 890, Lot 006), to be located at the coordinates of 39.281387, - 76.610944, Jake's Skate Park

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Ivor A. Quashie

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmember Eric Costello

OWNER: Mayor & City Council of Baltimore

SITE/GENERAL AREA

Site Conditions: The site is currently improved with a 7.5-acre waterfront park located on the south shore of the Inner Harbor Basin of the Patapsco River. It was created in the mid-1970s.

General Area: The general area is a commercial and residential community of two- and three-story homes. The property is zoned OS and is surrounded by C-5IH, OR-2, R-8 and R-7.

HISTORY

This site is part of the Urban Renewal Area known as Inner Harbor Project I, originally approved by the Mayor and City Council by Ordinance no. 1045 dated June 15, 1967. This ordinance was last amended by its Amendment no. 19, approved by Ordinance no. 13-156 dated April 15, 2013.

ANALYSIS

Background:

Jake Owen was a five-year-old kindergartener at Federal Hill Prep in Baltimore Maryland. Jake was an avid skate boarder, played on the soccer team which his dad coached, played little league baseball, and was a fixture at the Otterbein Swim Club. He enjoyed Ocean City, Maryland and playing in Riverside Park.

In December of 2011, on the northbound lanes of Interstate 83 to the inner loop of Interstate 695, the family's sedan was struck by a distracted driver in an SUV. Jake's dad and sister were injured and unfortunately young Jake was killed. The driver of the SUV was using his cellphone just before the accident that involved a total of three cars, and a police investigation showed that he did not hit the brakes before the impact. The driver that hit the Owen's car was not injured and was fined just \$1,000.

Jake's parents founded the nonprofit Change for Jake Foundation with Jake's Law as its first initiative. Signed into law by governor Martin O' Malley in April 2014, Jake's Law imposes a one-year jail term for drivers who cause a serious crash while using a handheld device.

The Owens family worked with Waterfront Partnership to develop and build a skate park in honor of Jake. The Waterfront Partnership sponsored an auction in April of 2021 with over 50 professional and amateur artists hand painted skateboard decks available for auction. This fundraiser raised \$28,000. Skateboarder Joey "Jett" Hornish, who also helped design the park raised \$35,000 at an art show for the project. The skate park opened in the fall of 2021

Notification: Notice of this meeting was sent to Federal Hill Neighborhood Association, Waterfront Partnership, and Councilmember Eric Costello.



Chris Ryer
Director