




MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 9, 2021
TO: Economic and Community Development Committee
FROM: Colin Tarbert, President and CEO 
POSITION: No Objection
SUBJECT: City Council No. 21-0181
Renaming Tench Tilghman Elementary/Middle School to Beatrice “Bea” Gaddy Elementary/Middle School

INTRODUCTION

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) is reporting on City Council Bill No. 21-0181 Introduced by: Councilmembers Glover, Stokes, Ramos

PURPOSE

For the purpose of changing the name of Tench Tilghman Elementary/Middle School, located at 600 North Patterson Park Avenue, to Beatrice “Bea” Gaddy Elementary/Middle School.

BRIEF HISTORY

Beatrice “Bea” Gaddy, a Baltimore City Councilmember and champion for Baltimore’s underdogs, arrived in Baltimore in 1964 as a single mother. Gaddy earned her bachelor's degree from Antioch University, and in the early 1970s joined the East Baltimore Children’s Fund. Using what she learned from her experience with the Fund, Gaddy founded a homeless shelter, which became the Bea Gaddy Family Center, Inc. In 1981 she started a community kitchen for Baltimoreans in need, and held an annual free Thanksgiving dinner that became well known in the City. Later, Gaddy also founded a furniture bank and a program refurbishing abandoned City row homes. She became an ordained pastor and buried the poor at no charge to their families. Gaddy won many awards during her time in Baltimore, including the Afro American Woman of the Year in 1984, the National Council of Negro Women Humanitarian Award in 1988, and the Mayor’s Citation in 1988. Gaddy was named “Marylander of the Year” by The Baltimore Sun in 1992, and in 1999 was elected to the Baltimore City Council. Tragically, she passed away in 2001 from cancer, but the City will always remember the woman known as “the Mother Teresa of Baltimore” or “St. Bea”.

FISCAL IMPACT (to BDC)

None

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AGENCY POSITION

The Baltimore Development Corporation has no objection to City Council Bill No. 21-0181.

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Clark at KClark@baltimoredevelopment.com and 410-837-9305.

cc: Nina Themelis

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