

Introduced by: Councilmember Stokes, President Young

Castell

DOLSON, Cohen, Sneed, Hen

Prepared by: Department of Legislative Reference

Date: February 21, 2017

Referred to: **HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS**

Rulloff
Committee

Leith
Purkett,
Middle
Burrett,
~~Healy~~
Clarke
Schlicht
Feisinger

Also referred for recommendation and report to municipal agencies listed on reverse.

CITY COUNCIL 17-0026

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ORDINANCE concerning

**Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors -
Chick Webb Recreation Center**

C-504

FOR the purpose of designating the Chick Webb Recreation Center, 623 North Eden Street, as an historical landmark: exterior.

BY adding

Article 6 - Historical and Architectural Preservation
Section(s) 17A-44
Baltimore City Code
(Edition 2000)

[Handwritten signatures]

[Handwritten signature: Lynn DORSEY]

[Handwritten signature: Herb STOKES]

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****The introduction of an Ordinance or Resolution by Councilmembers at the request of any person, firm or organization is a courtesy extended by the Councilmembers and not an indication of their position.**

Agencies

<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore City Public School System	<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Public Works
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Development Corporation	<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Real Estate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Solicitor	<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Recreation and Parks
<input type="checkbox"/> Comptroller's Office	<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Audits	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Department
<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Finance	<input type="checkbox"/> Health Department
<input type="checkbox"/> Department of General Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor's Office of Employment Development
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department of Housing and Community Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor's Office of Human Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Human Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor's Office of Information Technology
<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of the Mayor
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Police Department
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Estimates	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Control Board
<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Ethics	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals	<input type="checkbox"/> Labor Commissioner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comm. for Historical and Architectural Preservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Parking Authority Board
<input type="checkbox"/> Commission on Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Employees' Retirement System	<input type="checkbox"/> Wage Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
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Boards and Commissions

<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Estimates	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Control Board
<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Ethics	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals	<input type="checkbox"/> Labor Commissioner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comm. for Historical and Architectural Preservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Parking Authority Board
<input type="checkbox"/> Commission on Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Employees' Retirement System	<input type="checkbox"/> Wage Commission
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CITY OF BALTIMORE
ORDINANCE **17-069**
Council Bill 17-0026

Introduced by: Councilmember Stokes, President Young, and All Members
Introduced and read first time: February 27, 2017
Assigned to: Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Council action: Adopted
Read second time: November 13, 2017

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING

1 **Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors –**
2 **Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center**

3 FOR the purpose of designating the Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center, 1401 East
4 Monument Street, historically known as 623 North Eden Street, as an historical landmark:
5 exterior.

6 BY adding

7 Article 6 - Historical and Architectural Preservation
8 Section(s) 17A-44
9 Baltimore City Code
10 (Edition 2000)

11 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the**
12 **Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:**

13 **Baltimore City Code**

14 **Article 6. Historical and Architectural Preservation**

15 **Subtitle 17A. Landmark List: Exteriors – 2010s**

16 **§ 17A-44. CHICK WEBB MEMORIAL RECREATION CENTER.**

17 CHICK WEBB MEMORIAL RECREATION CENTER, 1401 EAST MONUMENT STREET,
18 HISTORICALLY KNOWN AS 623 NORTH EDEN STREET.

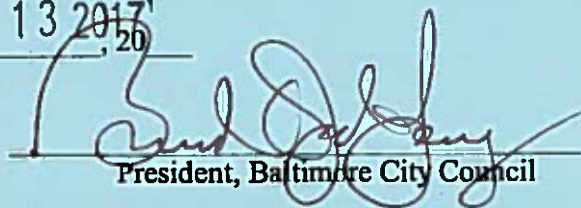
19 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance**
20 **are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior**
21 **Ordinance.**

22 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30th day**
23 **after the date it is enacted.**

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.

Council Bill 17-0026

Certified as duly passed this _____ day of NOV 13 2017, 2017



President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to Her Honor, the Mayor,

this _____ day of NOV 13 2017



Chief Clerk

Approved this 15 day of November 20 17



Mayor, Baltimore City

Approved For Form and Legal Sufficiency

This 13th Day of November 2017



Chief Solicitor

11-7-17

AMENDMENTS TO COUNCIL BILL 17-0026
(1" Reader Copy)

By: Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

Amendment No. 1

On page 1, in line 3, after "Webb", insert "Memorial"; on the same page, in line 4, after "Webb", insert "Memorial"; on the same page, in line 16, after "WEBB", insert "MEMORIAL"; and, on the same page, in line 17, after "WEBB", insert "MEMORIAL".

Amendment No. 2

On page 1, in line 4, after "Center,", insert "1401 East Monument Street, historically known as"; and, on the same page, in line 17, after "CENTER,", insert "1401 EAST MONUMENT STREET, HISTORICALLY KNOWN AS".

ADOPTED

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
Housing And Urban Affairs Committee
VOTING RECORD

DATE: 11/3/17

BILL#CC: 17- 0026 BILL TITLE: Ordinance – Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Chick Webb Recreation Center

MOTION BY: Schleifer SECONDED BY: Henry

FAVORABLE

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

UNFAVORABLE

WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Bullock, J. Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schleifer, I. Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burnett, K.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Henry, B.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sneed ,S.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cohen, Z	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dorsey, R.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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TOTALS		0		

CHAIRPERSON: [Signature]


COMMITTEE STAFF: Richard G. Krummerich, Initials: RIC



Baltimore
Development Corporation

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable President and Members of the City Council
Attention: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary

FROM: William H. Cole, President and CEO 

DATE: March 24, 2017

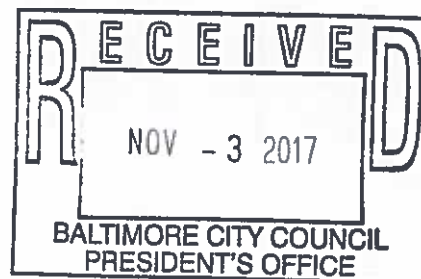
SUBJECT: City Council Bill No. 17-0026
Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Chick Webb Recreation Center

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) has been asked to comment on City Council Bill No. 17-0026, an ordinance for the purpose of designating the exterior of the Chick Webb Recreation Center, located at 623 North Eden Street, as an historical landmark.

BDC has reviewed the ordinance and respectfully requests that favorable consideration be given to City Council Bill No. 17-0026.

cc: Kyron Banks

A



The Baltimore City Department of
HOUSING & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Michael Braverman, Housing Commissioner *MB*

Date: October 31, 2017

Re: City Council Bill 17-0026 - Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors –Chick Webb
Recreation Center

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 17-0026, for the purpose of designating the Chick Webb Recreation Center, 623 North Eden Street, as an historical landmark: exterior.

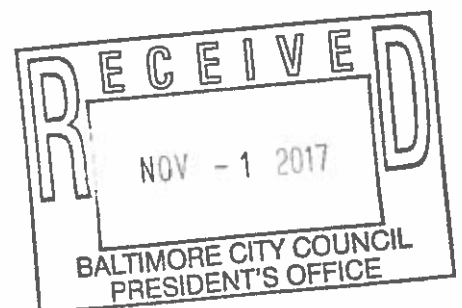
The Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center is located in East Baltimore and was the first recreation center and pool built for African Americans in segregated East Baltimore. The recreation center is eligible for a Landmark Designation because of its Art Moderne Style architecture, its association with the internationally renowned drummer and bandleader from East Baltimore, Henry "Chick" Webb and the role it has played in the history of Baltimore.

The Department of Housing and Community Development supports the passage of City Council Bill 17-0026.

MB:sd

cc: Ms. Karen Stokes, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*
Mr. Kyron Banks, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*

F



CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH,
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
ANDRE M. DAVIS, CITY SOLICITOR
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET
SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

October 26, 2017

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
Attn: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 17-0026 – Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors –
Chick Webb Recreation Center

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 17-0026 for form and legal sufficiency. It would designate the Chick Webb Recreation, 623 North Eden Street, as an historical landmark.

An ordinance of the Mayor and City Council is required to add a structure to the "Landmark List: Exteriors." BCC, Art. 6, §4-2(1). The City Council must refer the bill for written reports and recommendations to the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP), the Planning Commission, and any other agency that the Council President designates. BCC Art. 6, §4-5(a). Section 4-6 of Article 6 sets forth the public notice and hearing requirements. Receipt of the CHAP report is a prerequisite to the holding of a hearing on a bill seeking to add a structure to the "Landmark List: Exteriors" when the bill was not initiated by CHAP, as is the case here. BCC, Art. 6, §4-8(b). However, if CHAP does not submit a report within 100 days of the referral, the Council may proceed to set a hearing on the bill without a CHAP report. BCC, Art. 6, §4-8(c).

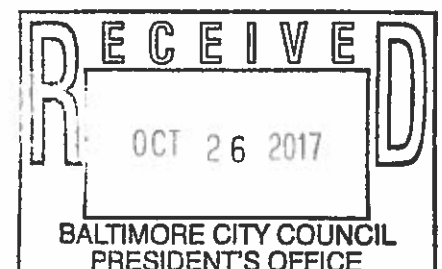
CHAP has reviewed this bill and has submitted a report approving the landmark designation. The Planning Commission has also provided a favorable report. Assuming the notice and hearing requirements are satisfied, the Law Department approves the bill for form and legal sufficiency.

Sincerely,


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor K. Tervalo".

Victor K. Tervalo
Chief Solicitor

A



**cc: Andre M. Davis, City Solicitor
Karen Stokes, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Kyron Banks, Mayor's Legislative Liaison
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Victor Tervalá, Chief Solicitor
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Jennifer Landis, Assistant City Solicitor**

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Eric Holcomb, Executive Director CHAP <i>EH</i>	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation 417 East Fayette Street, 8 th Floor		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill #17-0026/Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Chick Webb Recreation Center		

DATE: July 13, 2017

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

At its regular meeting of July 11, 2017, the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation considered City Council Bill 17-0026: Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors – Chick Webb Recreation Center.

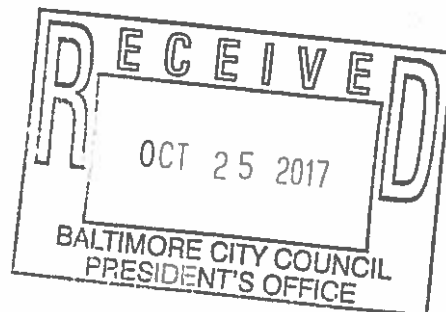
In its consideration of this bill, the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation reviewed the attached staff report which recommended approval of the following staff recommendation (12 members being present, 12 in favor):

staff recommends a finding of approval for designation of this property on the Baltimore City Landmark List because it meets criteria 1, 2, and 3 of CHAP's criteria for designation. Staff also recommends adding "Memorial" to the name, and the address of 1401 E. Monument Street to the designation.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eric Holcomb, Executive Director, at 410-396-4866.

CC:
Kyron Banks
Natawna Austin

A





Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor

**COMMISSION FOR
HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL
PRESERVATION**

Tom Liebel, Chairman

STAFF REPORT



Thomas J. Stosur
Director

July 11, 2017

REQUEST: City Council Bill 17-0026: Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors - Chick Webb Recreation Center, 623 North Eden Street

RECOMMENDATION: Approval, with addition.

STAFF: Lauren Schiszik

PETITIONER: Councilman Robert Stokes

OWNER: Mayor and City Council

SUMMARY: Designate this property on the Baltimore City Landmark List.

SITE/HISTORIC DISTRICT

General Area: The Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center is located in East Baltimore, in the same block as a few significant institutions that served African Americans in segregated Baltimore in the twentieth century, including the Old Dunbar High School, PS 103, a Baltimore City Landmark, the new Dunbar High School, the Health Center, and First Baptist Church, a Baltimore City Landmark. In the surrounding blocks, the Johns Hopkins Hospital Complex is located to the east, Douglass Homes to the south, property that was formerly Somerset Homes to the west, and the Lester Morton Court Apartments to the north.

Site Conditions/Architectural Description: The building is located on the corner of the 1400 block of East Monument Street and the 600 block of N. Eden Street. The building faces N. Eden Street, which was a city street when the recreation center opened, but today is a wide pedestrian boulevard. It was constructed in three stages, all designed by Baltimore architect Frederic A. Fletcher. The first portion, that of the main recreation center, was completed in 1947. This was designed in the Moderne style, with clean lines, strong linear and geometric patterns created by minor projections and recesses on the facade. The swimming pool was constructed in 1949 inside a reused 1919 industrial building, and the multipurpose room was constructed above the swimming pool in 1960. The swimming pool and multipurpose room were part of the original plan for the recreation center, but were later additions due to budget constrictions. These portions of the building are very utilitarian in nature. The parcel as a whole contains almost three quarters of an acre, and includes a playground and ball courts to the north of the recreation center adjacent to E. Monument Street.

BACKGROUND

- This designation is being requested by Councilman Stokes, with the introduction of City Council Bill 17-0026.

PROPOSAL & APPLICATION OF GUIDELINES

Designate this property on the Baltimore City Landmark List.

ANALYSIS

CHAP staff has reviewed the landmark designation report and has determined that the property is eligible for designation as a landmark under Criteria 1, 2, and 3.

This was the first recreation center and pool built for African Americans in segregated East Baltimore. The impetus and seed money for the construction of this recreation center came from members of the community, who fundraised and advocated for years for a recreation center, purchasing the property for the center with their own money. After its construction, the community stayed involved, advocating and even paying for programming and upgrades to the facility. The recreation center was built to honor William Henry “Chick” Webb, internationally renowned drummer and bandleader from East Baltimore, who, before his untimely death in 1939, had promised to raise money for a community center in his neighborhood so that children would have opportunities that he lacked as a child. After his death, Webb’s doctor, Dr. Ralph J. Young, and others determined to complete his dream, beginning a decades-long fundraising and advocacy campaign to build the recreation center, which for almost 70 years has served a critical role in East Baltimore’s large African American community as a center for recreation, education, and community. The building itself is designed in the Art Moderne style by Baltimore architect Frederic A. Fletcher, and is an excellent example of the style. This building is significant for its association with Chick Webb, its architecture, and the role that it has played in the history of Baltimore City.

Staff has two recommendations: adding a word to the landmark name, and adding an address. Staff recommends adding “Memorial” to the name, so that it is the “Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center” so that this matches the name on the building. Staff also recommends that the address of 1401 E. Monument Street be added to the designation. While 623 N. Eden Street is the original and historic address of the recreation center, this portion of N. Eden Street is closed and thus the current valid address for the property is 1401 E. Monument Street.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMENTS

The property is not located within a CHAP district; therefore, comments from an Architectural Review Committee are not applicable.

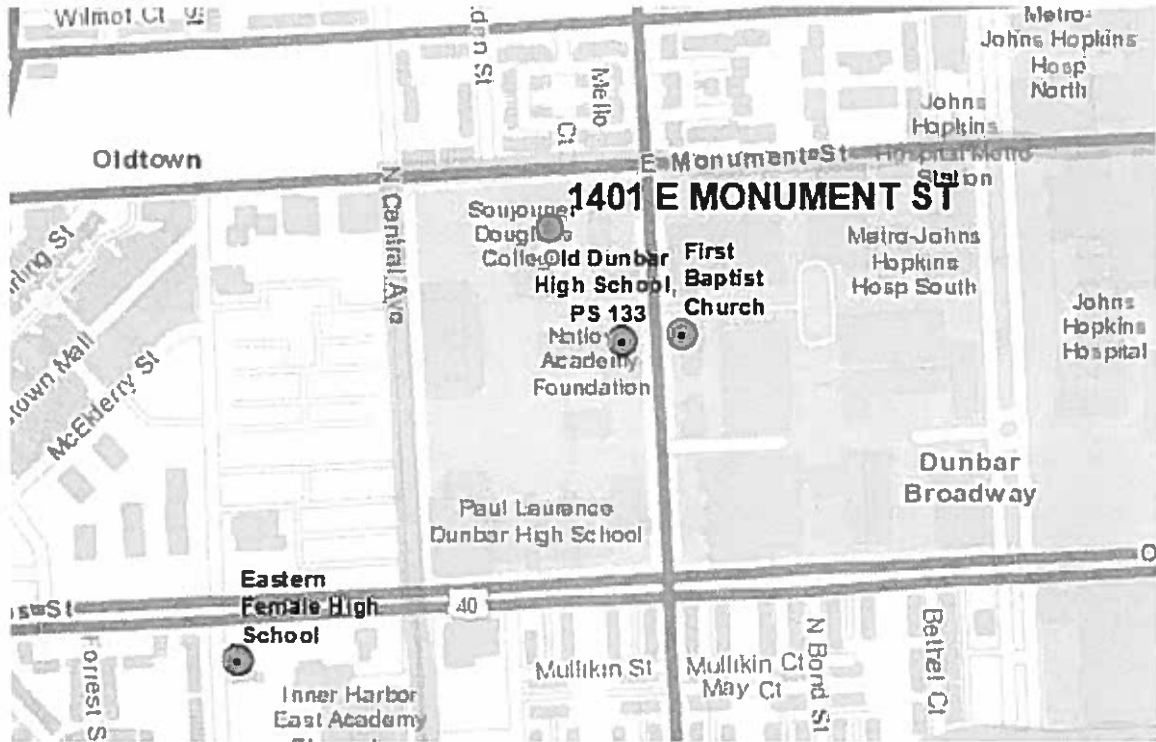
RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends a finding of approval for designation of this property on the Baltimore City Landmark List because it meets criteria 1, 2, and 3 of CHAP’s criteria for designation. Staff also recommends adding “Memorial” to the name, and the address of 1401 E. Monument Street to the designation.

E. S. Hill

Eric Holcomb
Director

MAP AND IMAGES



Map 1: Map of the property, also showing nearby landmarks.

Baltimore City Landmark Designation: Chick Webb Recreation Center, 623 North Eden Street.



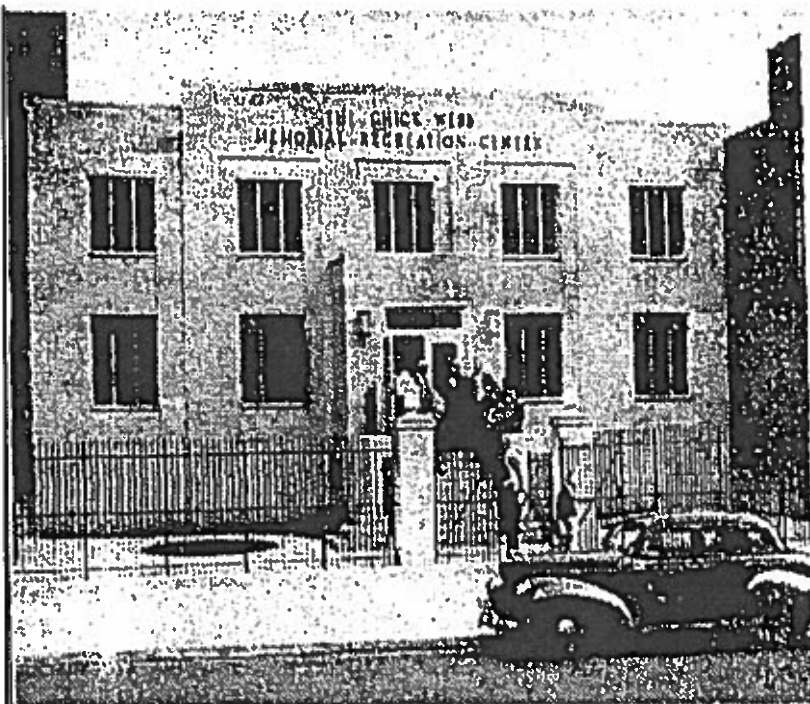
Map 2: Property boundary.



Image 1— Aerial view of site, view from west.



Image 2 – The façade today.



DRUMMER'S MEMORIAL.—City officials pay a visit to the Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center, developed by the city to honor the memory of the late Negro musician. Located in Eden street, the center will be accepted officially by the city on Friday.

Image 3 – Image of the Rec Center just before it opened in 1947.



Image 4 – Plaque on the interior of building.

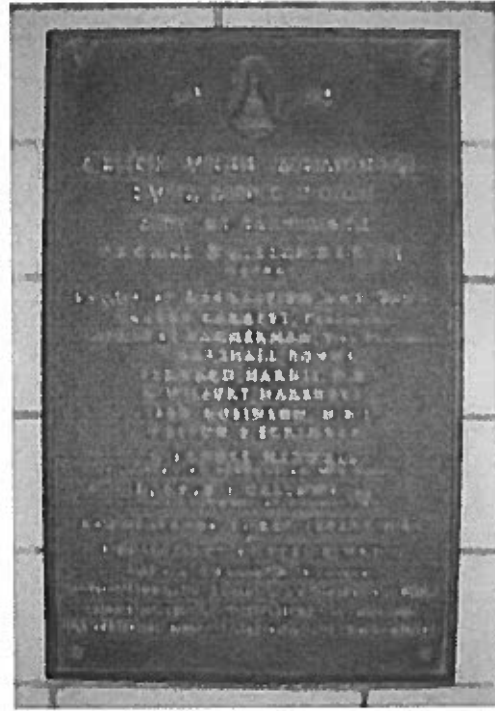


Image 5 – Plaque on the interior near the pool.

FROM

NAME & TITLE

TJS
THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR

AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
8TH FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET

SUBJECT

CITY COUNCIL BILL #17-0026 / CHICK WEBB RECREATION CENTER HISTORIC LANDMARK

CITY of
BALTIMORE

MEMO



DATE:

TO

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

August 2, 2017

At its regular meeting of July 27, 2017, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #17-0026, for the purpose of designating the Chick Webb Recreation Center located at 623 North Eden Street as a Commission for Historic Architectural Preservation (CHAP) Landmark.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached staff report and accepted staff's recommendation. Thus, the Planning Commission recommended amendment and approval of City Council Bill #17-0026 and adopted the following resolution Eight members being present (Eight in favor).

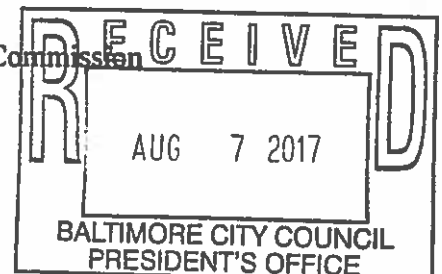
RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission concurs with the recommendation of its departmental staff, and recommends that City Council Bill #17-0026 be amended and passed by the City Council.

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

TJS/WA

Attachment

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



Fav w/ Almond



Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION

Wilbur E. "Bill" Cunningham, Chairman



Thomas J. Stosur
Director

STAFF REPORT

July 27, 2017

REQUEST: City Council Bill 17-0026: Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors - Chick Webb Recreation Center, 623 North Eden Street

RECOMMENDATION: Amendment and Approval

Amendments are as follows:

- In lines 3, 4, 16 and 17 add the word "Memorial" after the word "Webb". (Final title should read Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center)
- Lines 4 and 17 add "1401 E. Monument Street, historically known as" after "Center,". (The final should read "... Center, 1401 E. Monument Street, historically known as 623...")

STAFF: Tamara Woods

PETITIONER: City Councilman Robert Stokes

OWNER: Mayor and City Council

SITE/HISTORIC DISTRICT

General Area: The Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center is located in East Baltimore, in the same block as a few significant institutions that served African Americans in segregated Baltimore in the twentieth century, including the Old Dunbar High School, PS 103, a Baltimore City Landmark, the new Dunbar High School, the Health Center, and First Baptist Church, a Baltimore City Landmark. In the surrounding blocks, the Johns Hopkins Hospital Complex is located to the east, Douglass Homes to the south, property that was formerly Somerset Homes to the west, and the Lester Morton Court Apartments to the north.

Site Conditions/Architectural Description: The building is located on the corner of the 1400 block of East Monument Street and the 600 block of N. Eden Street. The building faces N. Eden Street, which was a city street when the recreation center opened, but today is a wide pedestrian boulevard. It was constructed in three stages, all designed by Baltimore architect Frederic A. Fletcher. The first portion of the main recreation center was completed in 1947. This was designed in the Art Moderne style, with clean lines, strong linear and geometric patterns created by minor projections and recesses on the facade. The swimming pool was constructed in 1949 inside a reused 1919 industrial building, and the multipurpose room was

constructed above the swimming pool in 1960. The swimming pool and multipurpose room were part of the original plan for the recreation center, but were later additions due to budget constrictions. These portions of the building are very utilitarian in nature. The parcel as a whole contains almost three quarters of an acre, and includes a playground and ball courts to the north of the recreation center adjacent to E. Monument Street.

ANALYSIS

The proposed exterior landmark designation of the Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center in East Baltimore is for the historical significance of the site, but is also included in an active master planning process and proposed new development area for the Oldtown area. City Council Bill #17-0026 was analyzed by CHAP, Land Use and Urban Design, and Comprehensive Planning Staff.

Eligibility for Landmark Designation

This was the first recreation center and pool built for African Americans in segregated East Baltimore. The impetus and seed money for the construction of this recreation center came from members of the community, who fundraised and advocated for years for a recreation center, purchasing the property for the center with their own money.

After its construction, the community stayed involved, advocating and even paying for programming and upgrades to the facility. The recreation center was built to honor William Henry "Chick" Webb, internationally renowned drummer and bandleader from East Baltimore, who, before his untimely death in 1939, had promised to raise money for a community center in his neighborhood so that children would have opportunities that he lacked as a child. After his death, Webb's doctor, Dr. Ralph J. Young, and others determined to complete his dream, beginning a decades-long fundraising and advocacy campaign to build the recreation center, which for almost 70 years has served a critical role in East Baltimore's large African American community as a center for recreation, education, and community.

In addition, Ella Fitzgerald, Chick's protegee who was the "First Lady of Swing" and the leader of his band following his death, paid tribute to Chick every year after his death. In 1948, she did so by entertaining children at a Christmas party at the Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center. In order to ensure that an unexpected engagement would not prevent her from attending, she booked Baltimore's Club Astoria for the ten days spanning Christmas and New Year's Eve so that she would definitely be in town for the party at the Recreation Center.¹

The building itself is designed in the Art Moderne style by Baltimore architect Frederic A. Fletcher, and is an excellent example of the style. This building is significant for its association with Chick Webb, its architecture, and the role that it has played in the history of Baltimore City.

CHAP staff reviewed the landmark designation report and determined that the property is eligible for designation as a landmark under CHAP Criteria 1, 2, and 3. A Baltimore City Landmark may be a site, structure, landscape, building (or portion thereof), place, work of art, or other object:

1. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Baltimore history;
2. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in Baltimore's past; or
3. That embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

Master Plan

On October 6, 2016, the Planning Commission adopted an update addendum to the 2010 Oldtown Redevelopment Plan. The primary reason for this update was to reflect the new direction in implementation. On April 17, 2014, the Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC), on behalf of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore (The City), and the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC), issued a Joint Request for Proposals (RFP) for a mixed-use development to be located on approximately 16 acres in the Oldtown community. The site included 7.5 acres of City-owned land, as well as 8.7 acres from the former Somerset Homes public housing site owned by HABC.

The selected joint-venture team including The Beatty Development Group, The Commercial Development Group, Mission First Housing Development Corporation, and The Henson Development Co. (The Development Team) was selected to pursue the redevelopment of the lower portion of the Oldtown Mall and the former Somerset Homes site.

As part of the developers' proposed redevelopment, they have expanded the area in which they would like to work. This area is to the east of Central Avenue and south of Orleans Street. Though the proposal is outside of the scope of the RFP, it was reviewed as part of the discussion with UDARP. This is a much later phase of proposed redevelopment and will have many more discussions with the communities and property owners as to the particular redevelopment scenario that would move forward, including any future demolition and street alignments.

The proposed phase east of Central Avenue shows the current location of the Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center incorporated into a site for new construction. In response to this conceptual plan, members of the Dunbar Alumni Association began discussions about protecting buildings that they felt were of historical significance to the community. In their discussions with the City Councilman, it was decided to move forward with a proposal to landmark the recreation center.

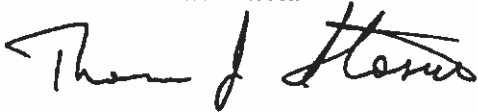
On May 30, 2017 Planning Staff hosted a charrette with stakeholders to explain the City Council Bill and what becoming a landmark means. In addition, staff did an exercise with stakeholders to hear from them regarding support or opposition for the landmark designation of the Chick Webb Memorial Recreational Center, as well as what they would like to see for future recreation and the impact on the proposed redevelopment plan of the developers.

In evaluating the historical significance and the impact on the Oldtown Redevelopment Plan,

staff recommends that the Planning Commission approve the bill with two recommended amendments: 1.) Adding "Memorial" to the name of the landmark designation, so that it is the "Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center" so that this matches the name on the building, and 2.) That the address of 1401 E. Monument Street be added to the designation. While 623 N. Eden Street is the original and historic address of the recreation center, this portion of N. Eden Street is closed and thus the current valid address for the property is 1401 E. Monument Street. For practical purposes, such as future permitting of improvements, the legal address, not just the historical address, should be contained in the legislation.

Community Notification

Baltimore City Recreation & Parks, Dunbar Alumni Association, Housing Authority of Baltimore City Residents Advisory Board, Baltimore Housing, Baltimore Development Corporation, Baltimore Heritage Inc., Baltimore AIA, Preservation Maryland, Beatty Development, Henson Development Company and City Councilman Robert Stokes have been notified of this action.



Thomas J. Stosur
Director

IMAGES



Map 2: Property boundary.



Image 1– Aerial view of site, view from west.



Image 2 –Baltimore Sun image of the Rec Center in 1947.



Image 3 – The façade today.



Image 4 – Plaque on the interior of building.



Image 5 – Plaque on the interior near the pool.

“Ella Remembers Chick, Who Made Her a Star” *Afro-American* (1893-1988); Jan 8, 1949; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Baltimore Afro-American pg. 7

CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGH, Mayor



BOARD OF MUNICIPAL AND
ZONING APPEALS

DAVID C. TANNER, Executive Director
417 E. Fayette Street, Room 1432
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

March 6, 2017

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: City Council Bill No. 17-0026: Zoning - Baltimore City Zoning Code - Legalization –
Corrections.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

City Council Bill No. 17-0026 has been referred by your Honorable Body to the Board of
Municipal and Zoning Appeals for study and report.

The purpose of City Council Bill No. 17-0026 is to legalize City Code Article 32 {"Zoning"}, as
enacted by Ordinance 16-581 {"TransForm Baltimore - Zoning"} and edited, codified, and
published by the Baltimore City Department of Legislative Reference; further amending new
Article 32 to correct various technical errors, omissions, and inconsistencies and to correct,
clarify, and conform various references and language; providing for a special effective date; and
generally relating to the zoning and development laws of the City of Baltimore.

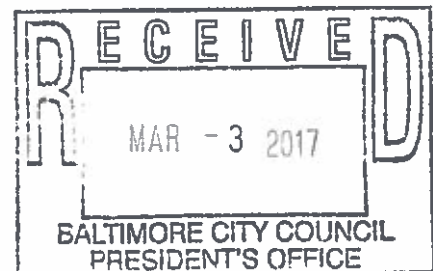
The BMZA has reviewed the legislation and recommends approval to the passage of Bill
Number 17-0026.

Sincerely,

David C. Tanner
Executive Director

DCT/rdh

CC: Mayors Office of Council Relations



City of Baltimore

City Council
City Hall, Room 408
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland
21202

Meeting Minutes - Final

Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

Friday, November 3, 2017

1:50 PM

Du Burns Council Chamber, 4th floor, City Hall

17-0026

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Present 7 - Member John T. Bullock, Member Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Member Kristerfer Burnett, Member Bill Henry, Member Shannon Sneed, Member Zeke Cohen, and Member Ryan Dorsey

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

17-0026

Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors - Chick Webb Recreation Center

For the purpose of designating the Chick Webb Recreation Center, 623 North Eden Street, as an historical landmark: exterior.

Sponsors: Robert Stokes, Sr., President Young, Ryan Dorsey, Zeke Cohen, Shannon Sneed, Sharon Green Middleton, Eric T. Costello, Brandon M. Scott, Leon F. Pinkett, III, Kristerfer Burnett, Bill Henry, John T. Bullock, Mary Pat Clarke, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Edward Reisinger

A motion was made by Member "Yitzy" Schleifer, seconded by Member Henry, that this Ordinance be Recommended Favorably with Amendment . The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Member Bullock, Member "Yitzy" Schleifer, Member Burnett, Member Henry, Member Sneed, Member Cohen, and Member Dorsey

ADJOURNMENT

CITY OF BALTIMORE

CATHERINE E. PUGL, Mayor



OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

LARRY E. GREENE, Director
415 City Hall, 100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
410-396-7215 / Fax: 410-545-7596
email: larry.greene@baltimorecity.gov

HEARING NOTES

Bill: CC 17-0026

Ordinance - Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors - Chick Webb Recreation Center

Committee: Housing and Urban Affairs
Chaired By: Councilmember John Bullock

Hearing Date: November 3, 2017
Time (Beginning): 1:53 PM
Time (Ending): 2:11 PM
Location: Clarence "Du" Burns Chamber
Total Attendance: 34
Committee Members in Attendance:
John Bullock Zeke Cohen
Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer Ryan Dorsey
Kristerfer Burnett
Bill Henry
Sharon Sneed

Bill Synopsis in the file? [X] yes [] no [] n/a
Attendance sheet in the file? [X] yes [] no [] n/a
Agency reports read? [X] yes [] no [] n/a
Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded? [] yes [] no [X] n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file? [X] yes [] no [] n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners? [X] yes [] no [] n/a
Final vote taken at this hearing? [X] yes [] no [] n/a
Motioned by: Councilmember Schleifer
Seconded by: Councilmember Henry
Final Vote: Fav. with Amendments

Major Speakers

(This is not an attendance record.)

- Eric Holcomb - CHAP
Tamara Woods - Department of Planning

Major Issues Discussed

1. Chair Bullock convened the Hearing and welcomed the assembled guests.
2. Testimony showed that the Chick Webb Memorial Recreation Center is of both architectural and historical significance in that it played a major role in the the development of East Baltimore.
3. The Bill was amended and passed on a 7-0 vote

Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes No

If yes, describe.

Committee Vote:

J. Bullock:..... Yea
 I. Schleifer: Yea
 K. Burnett: Yea
 B. Henry: Yea
 S. Sneed: Yea
 Z. Cohen: Yea
 R. Dorsey:..... Yea
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Richard G. Krummerich, Committee Staff

Date: November 6, 2017

cc: Bill File
OCS Chrono File



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**CITY OF BALTIMORE
CITY COUNCIL HEARING ATTENDANCE R**

Committee: * Housing and Urban Affairs

Date: November 3, 2017

Time: 1:50 PM

Place: * Council C

Subject: * - Ordinance - Baltimore City Landmark List: Exteriors - Chick Webb Recreation C

PLEASE PRINT

IF YOU WANT TO TESTIFY PLEASE CHECK

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ST. #	ADDRESS/ORGANIZATION NAME	ZIP	
John	Doe	100	North Charles Street	21202	John D
Elmnett	Johnson	1021	Evesham Ave.	21212	elmnett
Elmnett	Johnson	1021	Evesham Ave.	21212	elmnett
Myrtle	Myrtle & Cinc	1420	1912 Balt Ave.	21217	Myrtle
Konwain	Miles		1912 Balt Ave.	21217	
Nathan	IRBY JR	2800	C Federal Street	21213	
Nathan	IRBY JR	2800	C Federal Street	21213	Nathan
Eric B	Halcomb	417	F. Fayette Blvd	21202	Eric B
Myrtle	Myrtle		Chick Webb		

(* NOTE: IF YOU ARE COMPENSATED OR INCUR EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THIS BILL, YOU MAY BE R
BOARD. REGISTRATION IS A SIMPLE PROCESS. FOR INFORMATION AND FORMS, CALL OR WRITE: BALTIMOR
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE, 626 CITY HALL, BALTIMORE, MD 21202. TEL: 410-396-4730. FAX: 410-396-8483.

