

TJA

FROM

NAME & TITLE	THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR
AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 TH FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET
SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #17-0069 / CITY PROPERTY – RENAMING JOHN EAGER HOWARD ELEMENTARY TO DOROTHY L. HEIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



DATE:

TO

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

May 25, 2017

At its regular meeting of May 25, 2017, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #17-0069, for the purpose of changing the name of John Eager Howard Elementary School located at 2011 Linden Avenue, to Dorothy I. Height Elementary School.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached staff report, which recommended approval of City Council Bill #17-0069 and adopted the following resolution; seven members being present (seven in favor).

RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission concurs with the recommendation of its departmental staff, and recommends that City Council Bill #17-0069 be 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
- The Honorable Kristerfer Burnett, 8th District
- 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



Catherine E. Pugh
Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION

Wilbur E. "Bill" Cunningham, Chairman

STAFF REPORT



Thomas J. Stosur
Director

May 25, 2017

REQUEST: City Council Bill #17-0069/ City Property - Renaming John Eager Howard Elementary School to Dorothy I. Height Elementary School:

For the purpose of changing the name of John Eager Howard Elementary School (School #61), located at 2011 Linden Avenue, to Dorothy I. Height Elementary School (School #61).

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Ivor Quashie

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmen Leon F. Pinkett III and Zeke Cohen

SITE/GENERAL AREA

Site Conditions: The John Eager Howard Elementary School is located at 2011 Linden Avenue, on the east side of Linden Avenue, between Lennox Street and Ducatel Street.

General Area: This school is located within the Reservoir Hill neighborhood, a predominantly residential neighborhood, where a majority of the housing stock is comprised of row houses. The neighborhood is bordered by North Avenue on the south, McCulloh Street on the west, Druid Park Lake Drive on the north, and Mount Royal Terrace on the east.

HISTORY

The INSPIRE plan for this school was approved by the Planning Commission on January 12, 2017. This plan included the following recommendations for the neighborhood: Invest in Housing and Market-Strengthening Development Opportunities, Create Sustainable Neighborhoods, Improve Sanitation, Improve Resident Safety, Create Connections and Access and Create Opportunities for Health and Wellness.

ANALYSIS

Background: As captioned in the recital of the bill, on January 12, 2016, the Board of School Commissioners voted to close the Westside Elementary School and to change the school zone of the John Eager Howard Elementary School to include the Westside School zone.

In accordance with the regulations of the school system, the principal convened a committee comprised of teachers, administration, school partner (Child First Authority), 1 parent from the former John Eager Howard Elementary, 1 parent from the former Westside Elementary School, 1 representative from the Penn North Community (Westside), and 1 representative from the Reservoir Hill Community. After deliberations, this renaming committee submitted 2 names to members of the communities and the school community, and the name Dorothy I. Height was

selected to replace the name of John Eager Howard elementary school. Dorothy I. Height was an educator and civil and women's rights activist with a focus on issues of African-American women, including unemployment, literacy, and voter awareness. Dorothy Height was the president of the National Council of Negro Women for 40 years and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2004. On February 1, 2017, the same day Ms. Height was honored with a forever stamp, the school community selected Dorothy I. Height out of a list of six influential candidates to replace John Eager Howard as the name for the new combined school.

Notification: The following have been notified of this action: Friends of Reservoir Hill, Penn North Community Association, the Neighborhood Action Group, St. Francis Neighborhood Center, Central District Police-Community Relations Council, Mt Royal Community Development Corporation, leaders of the 21st Century Schools Team from Baltimore City Public Schools, Councilman Leon F. Pinkett III and Councilman Zeke Cohen.



Thomas J. Stosur
Director