

CITY OF BALTIMORE

STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

ERNEST W. BURKEEN JR., Director
DR. RALPH W. E. JONES, JR. BUILDING
3001 East Drive - Druid Hill Park
Baltimore, Maryland 21217
410-396-6132

October 30, 2013

Honorable President Bernard Young
Members of the City Council
Baltimore City Council
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

RE: **Council Bill # 13-0273**
City Property – Naming the Building in Leon Day Park to be the Betty Hawkins Community Center

Dear President Young:

The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks **supports** this legislation that is for the purpose of naming the building in Leon Day Park; the Park being located south of Franklintown Road and east of the Gwynns Falls stream and the Western Maryland Railroad, to be the Betty Hawkins Community Center.

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, at their June 20, 2013 meeting, unanimously approved a motion recommending the naming of the Leon Day Field House in honor of the late Betty Hawkins. This request was made by Richard Harris, President of the Leon Day Foundation, Inc., not only on his behalf, but that of the Rosemont Community.

Mrs. Hawkins passed away on July 28th 2012, at the age of 84. To the end, she was still actively striving for the betterment of the Leon Day Park, and for the community in which she lived. Mrs. Hawkins was one of the founders of the Leon Day Foundation and was responsible for the many invaluable improvements that have taken place in the park. She was instrumental in establishing a partnership with Recreation and Parks for the park's clean-up and maintenance. We also understand that because of her tireless efforts, the NFL is now actively involved in the football programming that takes place in the park. These are but a few of her many civic and humanitarian acts that left wherever she was a better place for everyone, particularly the youth who now have a great park in which to play and the interest of a national athletic organization to lend expertise in their football activities.

Handwritten initials "F" and a red date stamp "10 31".

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Therefore, the Department of Recreation and Parks **supports** passage of City Council Bill #13-0273.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ernest W. Burkeen, Jr.", is written over the typed name.

Ernest W. Burkeen, Jr.

Director

EWB/VSO

cc: Angela Gibson, Liaison to City Council