

<p style="text-align: center;">CITY OF BALTIMORE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BERNARD C. "JACK" YOUNG, <i>Mayor</i></p>		<p style="text-align: center;">DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">REGINALD MOORE, <i>Executive Director</i> Dr. Ralph W. E. Jones, Jr. Building 3001 East Drive - Druid Hill Park Baltimore, Maryland 21217 410-396-7900</p>
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DATE: June 17, 2020

TO: Honorable President and Members of the City Council

FROM: Baltimore City Recreation & Parks

POSITION: Support

Re: City Council Bill #20-0497 – Zoning – Conditional Use Parking Lot – A Portion of 201 Reedbird Avenue

Dear President and City Council Members,

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks (BCRP) has reviewed City Council Bill 20-0497, an ordinance concerning zoning for a conditional use parking lot on a portion of the property known as 201 Reedbird Avenue.

Uniquely situated at the end of the Gwynns Falls Trail, the new Middle Branch Fitness & Wellness Center is designed to foster connections within the long waiting Cherry Hill community and greater region including Westport, Baybrook, Brooklyn, and Lakeland. The new construction consists of a 35,000 square footage rec center that will include a gymnasium, natatorium, fitness studios, open fitness, walking track, and community space. Phased exterior improvements will include a synthetic turf multipurpose field built in partnership with the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation, grass athletic fields, walking trails, a playground, dog park, and basketball courts.

FOR the purpose of providing a safe environment for city park patrons who visit the proposed Middle Branch Fitness & Wellness Center; our department proposes to install an asphalt paved parking lot with 103 spaces parking spaces adjacent to the proposed facility. By code, recommended parking for a facility and complex of this size is 627 spaces. In an effort to be mindful of disturbing an excess amount of green space and in an effort to comply with the community's request to keep cars out of the neighborhood and the streets in front of their homes, we arrived at the 103 number.

Therefore, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks recommends approval of City Council Bill 20-0497. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jenny Morgan at jenny.morgan@baltimorecity.gov or at 410-396-7900.

Respectfully,



Jacia T. Smith, Esq., *Chief of Staff Signed on behalf of*
Reginald Moore

Executive Director

City of Baltimore, Department of Recreation & Parks