

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**COUNCIL BILL 08-0069**  
**(First Reader)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Conaway, Kraft  
At the request of: Louis Fields c/o Baltimore Black Heritage Trails, African American Tourism  
Council of Maryland, Inc.  
Address: P.O. Box 3014, Baltimore, Maryland 21229  
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Introduced and read first time: March 10, 2008  
Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Public Works,  
Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation, Department of Transportation,  
Baltimore Heritage Area

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **City Streets – Renaming –**  
3 **North Avenue to Harriet Ross Tubman Boulevard**  
4 **and**  
5 **Caroline Street to Frederick Douglass Avenue**

6 FOR the purpose of changing the name of North Avenue to Harriet Ross Tubman Boulevard and  
7 the name of Caroline Street to Frederick Douglass Avenue.

8 BY authority of  
9 Article 26 - Surveys, Streets, and Highways  
10 Section 7-3  
11 Baltimore City Code  
12 (Edition 2000)

13 **Recitals**

14 Both Frederick Duglass and Harriet Tubman have strong connections to the City of  
15 Baltimore.

16 Frederick Douglass lived in Fells Point as a slave youth from 1826 to 1838. On Monday,  
17 September 3, 1838, he escaped by means of the Underground Railroad from slavery to  
18 freedom in the north.

19 In 1850, one year after her escape from the Eastern Shore, Harriet Tubman came to  
20 Baltimore and made her first Underground Railroad rescue, leading her niece, Kessiah  
21 Jolley, north to freedom.

22 Why North Avenue and Caroline Street?

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 North Avenue was once subjected to the restrictive housing covenants laws enacted by  
2 the City of Baltimore (e.g., Ordinance 10-510) and was an invisible, but very real, border  
3 for segregated housing within the City.

4 Caroline Street is the location where Douglass lived, played, walked, learned to read and  
5 write, and planned his escape from American slavery.

6 The National Great Blacks in Wax Museum now lies at the juncture of North Avenue and  
7 Caroline Street. And the new Frederick Douglass - Isaac Myers Maritime Museum can  
8 be found where Caroline Street meets Thames Street, in Fells Point.

9 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That:**

10 (a) the name of North Avenue, between Edgewood Street on the west and Milton Street  
11 on the east, is changed to Harriet Ross Tubman Boulevard; and

12 (b) the name of Caroline Street, between North Avenue on the north and the intersection  
13 of Thames and Block Streets on the south, is changed to Frederick Douglass Avenue.

14 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30<sup>th</sup> day  
15 after the date it is enacted.