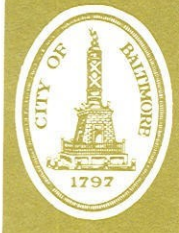


TJA

<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET, 8 <sup>TH</sup> FLOOR
	SUBJECT	CCB #09-0327/ CITY PROPERTY- NAMING THE VISITORS' ORIENTATION AND EDUCATION CENTER OF THE CYLBURN ARBORETUM ASSOCIATION TO THE THE VOLLMER CENTER

CITY of  
BALTIMORE  
**MEMO**



TO

DATE:

June 25, 2009

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

The Department of Planning has received City Council Bill #09-0327 concerning the naming of the Visitors' Orientation and Education Center of the Cylburn Arboretum Association to be the Vollmer Center. Ms. Pauline Vollmer a life-long environmentalist, provided a significant donation towards this exciting new green building.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached staff report which recommended approval of City Council Bill #09-0327 and adopted the following resolution, seven members being present and seven in favor.

RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission concurs with the recommendation of its departmental staff, and recommends that City Council Bill #09-0327 be passed by the City Council.

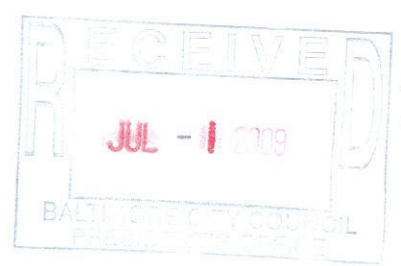
If you have any questions, please contact Wolde Ararsa, Division Chief of Land Use and Urban Design, at (410) 396-4488.

TJS/WYA/tl

Attachment

CC:

- Mr. Andrew Frank, Deputy Mayor
- Mr. Demuane Millard, Chief of Staff
- Ms. Angela Gibson, Mayor's Office
- The Honorable "Rikki" Spector, City Council Rep – Planning Commission
- Mr. Paul Graziano, Commissioner of DHCD
- Ms. Nikol Naybors-Jackson, DHCD
- Mr. David Tanner, BMZA
- Mr. Larry Greene, Council Services
- Mr. Geoffrey Veale, Zoning Administration





Sheila Dixon  
Mayor

## PLANNING COMMISSION

Wilbur E. "Bill" Cunningham, Chairman

### STAFF REPORT



Thomas J. Stosur  
Director

June 25, 2009

**REQUEST:** City Council Bill #09-0327/ Naming the Visitors' Orientation and Education Center of the Cylburn Arboretum Association to be the Vollmer Center

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approval

**STAFF:** Melvin Hicks

**PETITIONER(s):** City Council members -Sharon Green Middleton, James B. Kraft, Edward L. Reisinger, Agnes Welch, Nicholas C. D'Adamo, Robert W. Curran, Rochelle 'Rikki' Spector, Bill Henry, Belinda K. Conaway, Helen L. Holton, Mary Pat Clarke

**OWNER:** Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

#### **SITE/GENERAL AREA**

Site Conditions: The Visitor's Orientation and Education Center resides in Cylburn Park. The site area has been improved with gardens, buildings, and a greenhouse. The area is surrounded by designed landscaping and heavily buffered by matured forest trees.

General Area: The visitor center site is located in the northern district of Baltimore City and is bounded by Greenspring Avenue and West Northern Parkway. Cold Spring New Town development is to the south of the site.

#### **HISTORY**

There are no previous legislative or Planning Commission actions regarding this site.

#### **CONFORMITY TO PLANS**

This action is consistent with the City of Baltimore's Comprehensive Master Plan, with respect to the enhancement of Baltimore's history and culture.

#### **ANALYSIS**

This bill would name the Visitors' Orientation and Education Center of the Cylburn Arboretum Association to be the Vollmer Center. Ms. Pauline Vollmer is a life-long environmentalist that loves to spread her love and knowledge about plants and various aspects of gardening.

Pauline E. Vollmer was born in Kansas but has spent her entire adult life in the Baltimore area. She has lived in her home in Northern Baltimore County for over fifty years where she has maintained her garden that has gained national recognition. Most of her life has been devoted to horticulture. Her interest in gardening has led her to involvement with the Cylburn Arboretum Association, The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland and The Horticultural Society of Maryland. She has held positions of responsibility in all three organizations. Building on her lifelong quest for knowledge about plants, she has lectured to numerous garden clubs and organizations on various aspects of gardening.

Ms. Vollmer recently made a magnificent gift of one million dollars to help facilitate the construction of the new building containing a visitor center and auditorium on the grounds of the Cylburn Arboretum. Her generous donation to the arboretum was intended to help create the new building at the Cylburn Arboretum which is an underused treasure of the City and aid to spread the knowledge and joys of gardening to a much wider audience. This new facility will enable the Arboretum to serve more people more effectively. It was also Ms. Vollmer's request that the new building contain offices for the Cylburn Arboretum Association, The Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland and The Horticultural Society of Maryland. Her intentions for this request was so that all three groups could work together to improve the environment and spread the word of gardening to the citizens of the Baltimore area.

The Department of Recreation and Parks strongly supports the naming of the new Orientation and Education Center at the Cylburn Arboretum in Druid Hill in honor of Pauline E. Vollmer. This legislation to name this new facility in behalf of Ms. Vollmer is a fitting tribute for an individual that has made countless contributions to the Cylburn Arboretum and the City of Baltimore.

Staff notified Family, Department of Recreation and Parks, City Council Representative, Cylburn Circle Neighborhood Association, and the Cylburn Community Action Association of this action.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Stosur". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "T" and "S".

**Thomas J. Stosur**  
**Director**