



<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Eric Holcomb, Executive Director CHAP 	CITY of <b>BALTIMORE</b> <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation 417 East Fayette Street, 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor		
	SUBJECT	COUNCIL BILL 21-0068R– Informational Hearing – Naming City Properties		

**TO**

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

DATE: December 8, 2021

The Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation Director is in receipt of City Council Bill 21-0068R – Informational Hearing – Naming City Properties – FOR the purpose of inviting the City Solicitor and representatives from the Commission on Historical and Architectural Preservation, Department of Planning, Department of Transportation, Department of General Services, Baltimore Development Corporation, Department of Recreation and Parks, and the Department of Real Estate to brief the City Council regarding the standards, procedures, practices and policies for naming and renaming City property and the ceremonial naming of City streets, and to discuss possible revisions of current standards, in light of national trends, so that our standards better foster equity and unity.

This item has been scheduled for a committee hearing on the same day as the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation hearing.

Because the City Council has the authority and responsibility of naming/renaming City Property (article 5 section 20-2 of the Baltimore City Code), CHAP thanks you for inviting us to participate in this hearing, and we believe we have a role to assist you in this important endeavor. CHAP wants to ensure that city place names reflect our current day values as well as celebrate the best of Baltimore’s heritage and culture.

With that in mind, the CHAP Director along with the Mayor’s Office and other City agencies is currently exploring the idea of creating a Commission to Review Baltimore’s Contested Monuments, Outdoor Art, Signage, and Place Names (including buildings and commemorative street names). The idea would be to provide a formal review process to evaluate Baltimore City’s monuments, interpretive signage, outdoor art, and place names that convey history which can be seen as divisive in current day society. Through the vetting of public monuments, art, signage and place names, the Commission would provide a public forum for Baltimore Citizens to participate in civil, public discourse to explore and learn the history of current inequalities in Baltimore and ensure that our monuments, outdoor art, signage and place names reflect our current day values.

This Commission, which is still in the planning stage, could help with your endeavor of city place-naming by providing reports on the history of names and any legal issues involved as well as providing a venue for transparent public dialogue of citizen stakeholders. It would be important to have Council representation on the Commission. This commission would not have the authority to name or rename, but would help ensure that the historical facts and context are accurate, providing a sound basis for your decision. By doing so, we would be able to use our history to reconcile with our past.

I look forward to the City Council hearing.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eric Holcomb, Executive Director, at 410-371-5667.