


MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable President and Members of the City Council
Attention: Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary

FROM: William H. Cole, President and CEO 

DATE: April 21, 2015

SUBJECT: City Council Bill No. 15-0510
Baltimore City Landmark List – John Ruhrah Elementary Middle School
(School #228)

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) has been asked to comment on City Council Bill No. 15-0510, an ordinance for the purpose of designating John Ruhrah Elementary Middle School (School #228) located at 701 Rappolla Street as a historic landmark.

The school is significant for its architecture and for its role in Baltimore City history. The school has been an important community site in the Greektown neighborhood for many decades. Constructed in 1929 and originally known as PS 228 – Highlandtown School, the building was designed by Herbert G. Jory, a Baltimore architect who was a member of the AIA and designed many institutional buildings in Baltimore, including schools and hospitals.

The school is an excellent example of the Classical Revival style that was popular for institutional buildings such as schools in the early 20th century. Following the 1935 death of Dr. John Ruhrah, an internationally recognized Baltimore pediatrician who served on the School Board during the 1930s, there was a movement to name a school after him to honor his contributions to medicine and education in Baltimore. The school was named for Ruhrah in 1945.

BDC has reviewed the ordinance and supports the proposed ordinance and is respectfully requesting that Bill No. 15-0510 be given favorable consideration by the City Council.

cc: Colin Tarbert
Angela Gibson

sandra.blake/ccbill15/15-0510

