



**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
HOUSING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**The Honorable James Torrence
Chairperson**

PUBLIC HEARING

**Thursday April 29 , 2025
4:00 PM**

CLARENCE "DU" BURNS COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Bill #25-0038

***City Property – Naming the Playground Located at
Senator Troy Brailey 3 Easterwood Park to be the
Margaret L. Powell Playground***

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Committee: Housing & Economic Development

25-0038

City Property – Naming the Playground Located at Senator Troy Brailey Easterwood Park to be the Margaret L. Powell Playground

Purpose:

FOR the purpose of naming the playground located at Senator Troy Brailey Easterwood Park to be the Margaret L. Powell Playground.

This Bill would take effect 30 days after enactment

REPORTING AGENCIES

Reporting Agency	Report Status
Department of Planning	No Objection
Department of Recreation & Parks	Favorable
Department of Real Estate	Favorable

BACKGROUND

If enacted this bill would name, the playground in the Senator Troy Brailey Easterwood Park after Margaret L. Powell.

Mrs. Powell, a Baltimore native, was a local community activist & teacher. She began her career as a staff member in the Choppin University Financial Aid Office and eventually became the Directory of Student Accounts there from 1983-2000. When she retired from the University, she became a teacher with Baltimore City Schools serving Baltimore’s children for 15 years. Her education included a Bachelor of Science degree in English from Coppin in May 1973, a Master of Science degree in Adult and Continuing Education in 1983 and a Master of Arts degree in Teaching from Coppin. Mrs. Powell enrolled in the doctorate program at Morgan and when she retired from teaching in 2016, she became a volunteer at Matthew A. Henson Elementary School in West Baltimore where she taught.

A member of many civic associations, Mrs. Powell started cultural celebrations around Baltimore. Events such as: Kwanzaa, Martin Luther King Day, Juneteenth, Marcus Garvey Day, Grandparent’s Day, & Community Healing Days.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fiscal Note:

Information Source(s):

- 25-0038 1st Reader Bill (in file)
 - Agency Reports
 - Obituary from Marshall March Funeral Home
<https://www.marshallmarchfh.com/obituaries/Margaret-Powell-16/#!/Obituary>
-

Analysis by: Tony Leva
Analysis Date: April 26, 2025

Direct Inquiries to: 410-396-1091

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 25-0038
(First Reader)

Introduced by: Councilmember Torrence

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Parker, Middleton, Bullock, Porter, Jones, Ramos, and
President Cohen

Introduced and read first time: March 10, 2025

Assigned to: Housing and Economic Development Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of Planning, Department of Recreation
and Parks, Department of Real Estate

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **City Property – Naming the Playground Located at Senator Troy Brailey**
3 **Easterwood Park to be the Margaret L. Powell Playground**

4 FOR the purpose of naming the playground located at Senator Troy Brailey Easterwood Park to
5 be the Margaret L. Powell Playground.

6 BY authority of

7 Article 5 - Finance, Property, and Procurement

8 Section 20-2

9 Baltimore City Code

10 (Edition 2000)

11 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the
12 name of the playground located at Senator Troy Brailey Easterwood Park is the Margaret L.
13 Powell Playground.

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

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

Baltimore City Council



Housing & Economic Development Committee

25-0038

**City Property – Naming the Playground Located at
Senator Troy Brailey Easterwood Park to be the
Margaret L. Powell Playground**

Agency Reports



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Dr. Reginald Moore, Executive Director Baltimore City Recreation & Parks <i>James Smith</i>
CC	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
DATE	April 14, 2025
SUBJECT	25—38 City Property - Naming the Playground Located at Senator Troy Brailey3 Easterwood Park to be the Margaret L. Powell Playground

Position: Favorable

BILL SYNOPSIS

This bill proposes the renaming of the playground located at Senator Troy Brailey Easterwood Park to the **Margaret L. Powell Playground**.

SUMMARY OF POSITION

Margaret L. Powell was a long-time resident of the Matthew Henson community and a dedicated advocate for its betterment. She served as the longtime secretary of the Matthew Henson Community Association and was affectionately known as the neighborhood's unofficial grandmother. Ms. Powell inspired and mentored residents of all ages through her unwavering commitment and leadership.

Baltimore City Recreation & Parks is pleased to support this legislation and the renaming of the Easterwood Park playground in honor of Margaret L. Powell.

If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Morgan at jmorgan@baltimorecity.gov



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the City Council
c/o Shamoia Gardiner Legislative Director, Council President's Office.

From: J Hardy, Special Assistant/ Constituent Liaison

Date: April 8, 2025

Re: 25-0038 City Property – Naming the Playground Located at Senator Troy Brailey
Easterwood Park to be the Margaret L. Powell Playground

Position: Support

The Department of Real Estate is responding to the request for a report on City Council Bill 25-0038, which proposes renaming the playground at Senator Troy Brailey Easterwood Park, located at 1500 N Bentalou St, Baltimore, MD 21216, to the Margaret L. Powell Playground. The bill would take effect 30 days after enactment.

Margaret Laurene Powell was a dedicated educator and community leader in West Baltimore. Ms. Powell devoted nearly three decades as an administrator at Coppin State University before transitioning to teaching at Matthew A. Henson Elementary School in 2000. She retired in 2016 but continued to volunteer at the school, demonstrating her unwavering commitment to the education and well-being of city students.

Senator Troy Brailey Easterwood Park is named after the late Senator Troy Brailey, a civil rights activist, and politician who represented West Baltimore in the Maryland General Assembly for 24 years. The proposed renaming of the playground to recognize Margaret L. Powell aligns with the city's practice of supporting community-driven initiatives that recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to their neighborhood.

This renaming serves as a fitting tribute to Ms. Powell's lifelong dedication to education and her impactful role in the West Baltimore community.

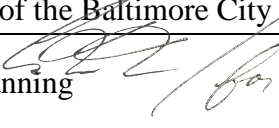
For the reasons stated above, the Department of Real Estate supports the passage of 25-0038.

CC:

KC Kelleher, Director of Communications and Policy, Comptroller's Office
Celeste Amato, Chief of Staff, Comptroller's Office
Eric Evans, Director of Real Estate, Comptroller's Office



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Chris Ryer, Director, Department of Planning 
DATE	April 22, 2025
SUBJECT	City Council Bill #25-0038

Position: Favorable

The Department of Planning does not object to the proposed naming of the playground in honor of Margaret L. Powell.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eric Tiso, Division Chief, Land Use and Urban Design Division at eric.tiso@baltimorecity.gov or at 410-396-8358.

Baltimore City Council



Housing & Economic Development Committee

25-0038

**City Property – Naming the Playground Located at
Senator Troy Brailey Easterwood Park to be the
Margaret L. Powell Playground**

Additional Materials

Washington, DC: (202) 723-1250

Suitland: (301) 736-1616



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Margaret Laurene Powell

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PRINT

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Obituary & Service

MARGARET LAURENE
POWELL was born Friday,

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family.

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Obituary for Margaret Laurene Powell

MARGARET LAURENE POWELL was born Friday, December 15, 1950, at Provident Hospital, in Baltimore, Maryland. She was the first of ten children born to Floyd Collins Ballard Sr. and Margaret Laurene Keene Ballard.

EDUCATION: Margaret began her early Baltimore City Public School education at Fannie L. Barbour Elementary School #161 (located at Saratoga and Schroeder Streets) in west Baltimore. She would go on to attend Harlem Park Junior High School #78. Maintaining excellent grades, Margaret was accepted into Western High School #407. Western High School is a college preparatory school founded in 1844 and is the oldest all-girls public high school in the nation and one of the city's most distinguished institutions of learning in Baltimore City. At Western, Margaret was an active participant in activities such as the Latin Drama Club, another Drama Group, and was a French tutor. Fortuitously, while in high school, she was also a member of the Future Teachers of America. After graduating from Western in 1968, Margaret attended Coppin State College in the fall. The proud member of a large family, and as the first-born child, she would fondly recall later that all nine of her siblings were born by the time she began her college career, with the youngest two arriving in summer. Margaret received a Bachelor of Science degree in English from Coppin in May 1973. She also received a Master of Science degree in Adult and Continuing Education (Administration and Supervision in May 1983) and a Master of Arts degree in Teaching from Coppin. Margaret continued her studies at Morgan State University where she enrolled in the Ed. D Candidate Urban Education Leadership program.

EMPLOYMENT: Margaret started her career as a Financial Aid Officer at Coppin State from 1973 to 1983. She then became Director of Student Accounts at Coppin State from 1983 until she resigned in 2000 after 26 years of dedicated employment with them. Margaret's next path also represented a career change. She became a Baltimore City Public School teacher during the 2000-01 school year. As an elementary school teacher at Robert W. Coleman, and eventually Matthew A. Henson Elementary School (where both her children attended many years before), Margaret found her niche. She discovered her passion for teaching, where she excelled until "retirement" in 2015. Along



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the way she exhibited tireless energy, opening Imani Ivy House, a boarding house for several third and fourth grade girls, where the girls lived with her at no cost to their parents. There they studied together, participated in community activities, and learned about health, nutrition, and social graces. Margaret was named “teacher of the year” during two academic school years, all the while building partnerships with parents, other community members, churches, and business, with an overall aim to save the children.

COMMUNITY: Margaret did not just talk about community involvement, she personified it. She was a member of the Western High School Alumnae, Matthew A. Henson Neighborhood Association, Matthew A. Henson School Volunteer/Anchor, The Alliance of Rosemont Community Organization (ARCO), Coppin Heights Community Development Corporation, Coppin State University Alumni Association, Greater Baltimore Black Chamber of Commerce, Citizens for Community Improvement, Thriving Communities' Collaborative, The Community Healing Network: (Emotional Emancipation Healing Circle Facilitator, Ubuntu Circle Facilitator), Worthy Women, Baltimore City Planning Academy Alumnus, Certified Cafe' Facilitator, Howard Park Civic Association. Margaret started cultural celebrations around Baltimore. Events such as: Kwanzaa, Martin Luther King Day, Juneteenth, Marcus Garvey Day, Grandparent's Day, Community Healing Days and even a museum in Matthew A. Henson.

PROUD LEGACY: Margaret is preceded in death by her parents Floyd Collins Ballard Sr. and Margaret Ballard, two brothers Michael Ballard Sr. and David Ballard Sr. and one sister Ruth Ballard. She leaves to cherish her memory: her son Bomani Ivy and her daughter Takasa Ivy; four beautiful grandchildren, Trevon Amiri, Zaakira Imani, Saadiq Imara and Zari Amariah; four sisters Linda Peete, Michelle Wiley, Lisa Hamm (Gerald) and Kim Ballard; two brothers Floyd Ballard Jr. and Keith Ballard, seventeen nieces and nephews; two aunts Martha Squirewell and Ruth Faulcon; and a host of other extended family members and friends.

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Margaret Laurene Powell please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

DEC 20. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center - Randallstown
5616 Old Court Rd
Windsor Mill, MD 21244
(410) 655-0110



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Memorial Service

DEC 20. 2:30 PM (ET)

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