


TJS

FROM	NAME & TITLE	THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 E. FAYETTE STREET, 8 th FLOOR		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #11-0686 / RENAMING THE UPTON BOXING CENTER TO JOE GANS BOXING CENTER		

TO

DATE:

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

May 6, 2011

At its regular meeting of May 5, 2011 the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #11-0686, which is for the purpose of changing the name of the Upton Boxing Center, located at 1901 Pennsylvania Avenue, to the Joe Gans Boxing Center.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached staff report which recommended amendments to and approval of City Council Bill #11-0686 and adopted the following resolution, five members being present (five in favor).

RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission concurs with the recommendation of its departmental staff, and recommends that City Council Bill #11-0686 be passed by the City Council.

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

TJS/WYA

Attachment

- cc: Ms. Kaliopé Parthemos, Deputy Mayor
 Ms. Thomasina Hiers, Deputy Chief of Staff
 Ms. Angela Gibson, Mayor's Office
 The Honorable Bill Henry, Council Rep. to Planning Commission
 Mr. David Tanner, BMZA
 Mr. Geoffrey Veale, Zoning Administration
 Ms. Nikol Nabors-Jackson, DHCD
 Ms. Karen Randle, Council Services
 Mr. Larry Greene, Council Services



Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION

Wilbur E. "Bill" Cunningham, Chairman



Thomas J. Stosur
Director

STAFF REPORT

May 5, 2011

REQUEST: City Council Bill #11-0686/ City Property – Renaming the Upton Boxing Center to the Joe Gans Boxing Center

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Melvin Hicks

PETITIONERS: Councilmembers William H. Cole, IV, D'Adamo, Curran, Kraft, Stokes, Holton, President Young, Councilmembers Middleton, Welch, Reisinger, and Conaway.

OWNER: Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

SITE/GENERAL AREA

Site Conditions: The Upton Boxing Center, addressed 1901 Pennsylvania Avenue, is located in a mixed use community. It is adjacent to commercial and residential land uses. The property is currently improved with a city-owned multi-purpose recreation building.

General Area: The Upton Boxing Center is located in West Baltimore City and is bounded by Pennsylvania Avenue and Robert Street.

HISTORY

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

CONFORMITY TO PLANS

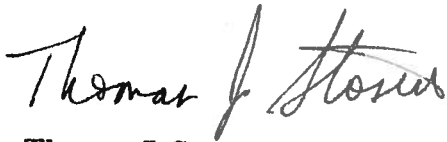
This action is consistent with the City of Baltimore's Comprehensive Master Plan, with respect to the enhancement of Baltimore's history and culture.

ANALYSIS

Joe Gans, the first African American World Boxing Champion, was born in Baltimore in 1874. Nicknamed the "Old Master", he is considered to be the greatest lightweight boxer of all time, and pound-for-pound he is considered to be one of the greatest boxers of all time. He started boxing professionally in Baltimore around 1891, and from 1902 to 1908, he reigned as lightweight champion. His boxing career encompassed 188 total fights, of which he won 138. He was originally named Joseph Gant, but in a newspaper article he was referred to as Joe Gans, a name that remained with him for the rest of his life. He died in 1910, of tuberculosis, and is buried in Baltimore's Mount Auburn Cemetery. His monument is maintained by the

International Boxing Commission and sits just to the left of the main entrance to the cemetery. Therefore; the Planning Department staff concurs with the sponsors of this bill and also feel that it would be a fitting tribute to rename the Upton Boxing Center to the Joe Gans Boxing Center. Thus, staff supports the passage of CCB #11-0686.

Staff notified Druid Heights Community Development Corporation, Inc., Sandtown Habitat Homeowners' Association, Sandtown-Winchester Community Building In Partnership, Sandtown-Winchester Improvement Association, Upton Planning Committee, Inc., Pennsylvania Avenue Redevelopment Collaborative, Pennsylvania Avenue Merchants Association, Dolphin Pool Association, Sandtown-Winchester Square Homeowners Association, and Friends of Pennsylvania Avenue Branch Library (FOPABL) of this action.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas J. Stosur". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "T".

Thomas J. Stosur
Director