

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 22-0198  
(First Reader)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Stokes, Bullock  
Introduced and read first time: February 22, 2022  
Assigned to: Economic and Community Development Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Transportation, Planning Commission, Baltimore Development Corporation, Department of Real Estate, Health Department

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **City Property – Naming the Baltimore City Health Department Building to**  
3 **the Dr. Maxie T. Collier Health Department Building**

4 FOR the purpose of naming the Baltimore City Health Department Building, located at 1001 East  
5 Fayette Street, the Dr. Maxie T. Collier Health Department Building.

6 BY authority of

7 Article 5 - Finance, Property, and Procurement  
8 Section 20-2  
9 Baltimore City Code  
10 (Edition 2000)

11 **Recitals**

12 Dr. Maxie T. Collier is a Baltimore hero. The first black Commissioner of the Baltimore City  
13 Health Department, a staunch advocate of mental health services for black residents of Baltimore  
14 City, and an early champion of needle-exchange programs to prevent the spread of HIV,  
15 Dr. Collier deserves Baltimore’s deep love and respect.

16 “I will remember Maxie as a brilliant psychiatrist and a caring and compassionate public  
17 health official,” said former Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke, quoted in Dr. Collier’s obituary published  
18 by the Baltimore Sun on April 23, 1994, on the event of Dr. Collier’s untimely death at the age  
19 of 49.

20 In 1984, observing widespread misdiagnoses by practitioners and a lingering stigma towards  
21 mental health treatment in the black community that kept individuals with mental illness from  
22 seeking care Dr. Collier, together with Fikre Workneh, MSW and Senator Shirley  
23 Nathan-Pulliam, founded the Black Mental Health Alliance (“BMHA”). For over 30 years  
24 BHMA has worked to promote awareness of the needs of minorities coping with mental illness  
25 and offer culturally responsive information, support, and referrals to individuals and families.

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

## Council Bill 22-0198

1 During his tenure as Baltimore City Health Commissioner from 1987 to 1990, Dr. Collier  
2 created “The Baltimore Project,” a novel prenatal care project aimed at reducing infant mortality  
3 and future unwanted pregnancies.

4 In 1989, early in the fight to stop the spread of HIV among intravenous drug uses, Dr. Collier  
5 advocated for the City to establish its first needle exchange program. Eventually launched in  
6 November 1994, the Baltimore Needle and Syringe Exchange Program is still active after nearly  
7 30 years thanks to the initial efforts of Dr. Collier. Quoted in the Sun’s obituary of Dr. Collier,  
8 David Vlahow, then an associate professor for epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins School of  
9 Public Health said “I think a lot of efforts coming to fruition now were due in large part to the  
10 courageous public health effort on [Dr. Collier’s] part[.]”

11 A native of Waverly, Tennessee, Dr. Collier graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1967  
12 and from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 1977. Dr. Collier began his private  
13 practice in 1980 where he offered his expertise in the areas of family therapy, individual  
14 psychodynamic therapy, and forensic psychiatry. In 1987, Dr. Collier became the Chief of  
15 Psychiatry for the Johns Hopkins Health Plan where he was responsible for the management and  
16 supervision of mental health services including outpatient treatment, inpatient admission, and  
17 rehabilitative services. From 1987 to 1990 Dr. Collier served as the first black Commissioner of  
18 Health for Baltimore City. In addition to his many professional activities, Dr. Collier was an  
19 Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and an Assistant Professor at the  
20 University of Maryland School of Medicine.

21 Dr. Collier was a devoted husband, father, professor, and a pioneering public health advocate  
22 in the areas of black mental health, prenatal care, and HIV prevention. Dr. Maxie T. Collier will  
23 always be a Baltimore hero.  
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25 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
26 name of the Baltimore City Health Department Building, located at 1001 East Fayette Street, is  
27 named the Dr. Maxie T. Collier Health Department Building.

28 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30<sup>th</sup> day  
29 after the date it is enacted.