

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
ORDINANCE _____
Council Bill 22-0198**

Introduced by: Councilmember Stokes, Bullock
Introduced and read first time: February 22, 2022
Assigned to: Economic and Community Development Committee
Committee Report: Favorable
Council action: Adopted
Read second time: July 25, 2022

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING

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

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

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

10 Recitals

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

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

19 In 1984, observing widespread misdiagnoses by practitioners and a lingering stigma towards
20 mental health treatment in the black community that kept individuals with mental illness from
21 seeking care Dr. Collier, together with Fikre Workneh, MSW and Senator Shirley
22 Nathan-Pulliam, founded the Black Mental Health Alliance ("BMHA"). For over 30 years
23 BHMA has worked to promote awareness of the needs of minorities coping with mental illness
24 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.
Underlining indicates matter added to the bill by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by
amendment or deleted from existing law by amendment.

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.

24 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
25 name of the Baltimore City Health Department Building, located at 1001 East Fayette Street, is
26 named the Dr. Maxie T. Collier Health Department Building.

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

Council Bill 22-0198

Certified as duly passed this 25 day of July, 2022



President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to His Honor, the Mayor,

this 25 day of July, 2022

Natawna B. Austin

Chief Clerk

Approved this 29 day of July, 2022



Mayor, Baltimore City

Approved for Form and Legal Sufficiency
This 26th Day of July, 2022.

Elena R DiPietro

Chief Solicitor

