



## MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the City Council  
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Christine Griffin, Deputy Director of Policy and Government Relations

Date: October 10, 2024

Re: 24-0597 City Property - Renaming Riverside Park Pool to the Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Community Pool

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### Position: Support

The Department of Real Estate is responding to the request for a report on **City Council bill 24-0597 City Property - Renaming Riverside Park Pool to the Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Community Pool**. The purpose of this bill is to change the name of Riverside Park Pool, located at 1800 Covington Street (Block 1940, Lot 001), to the Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Community Pool. The bill would take effect 30 days after it is enacted.

This bill honors Congressman Cummings's legacy as a tireless advocate for justice and equality. Renaming Riverside Park Pool to the Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Community Pool is a fitting tribute to his long career and personal experiences fighting for civil rights.

Growing up in South Baltimore, Cummings experienced firsthand the racial discrimination that characterized Baltimore's public spaces. As noted in the bill, in 1962, he participated in efforts to integrate Riverside Park Pool. This pool was a place where Cummings, alongside other Black youth and leaders like Juanita Jackson Mitchell, faced hostile opposition from white protesters.

Renaming this pool in Cumming's honor turns this public space into a symbol of unity, resilience and the ongoing struggle for equality and is a fitting way to honor the legacy and profound impact that Elijah E. Cummings had on Baltimore, civil rights and the broader American community.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Real Estate supports the passage of 24-0597. A representative from the office will be present at the hearing.