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**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE**

Mission Statement

The Committee on Ways and Means (WM) is responsible for ensuring taxpayer dollars are expended prudently and equitably. WM will exercise regular oversight of the City's budget, expenditures, loans, and other financial matters. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include: budget & appropriations, taxation, financial services, consumer protection, audits, and the Comptroller's Office.

**The Honorable Eric T. Costello
Chairman**

PUBLIC HEARING

**Tuesday, November 12, 2024
10:08 AM**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Council Bill #24-0597

**City Property - Renaming Riverside Park Pool to the Congressman Elijah E.
Cummings Community Pool**

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BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Ways and Means

Bill 24-0597

City Property - Renaming Riverside Park Pool to the Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Community Pool

Sponsor: Councilmember Costello

Introduced: September 30, 2024

Purpose: For the purpose of changing the name of Riverside Park Pool, located at 1800 Covington Street (Block 1940, Lot 001), to the Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Community Pool.

Effective: 30th day after enacted.

Agency Reports

Law Department	Favorable with comments
Department of Finance	Not Opposed
Baltimore City Recreation and Parks	Favorable
Planning Commission	None as of this writing
Department of Real Estate	Favorable
Baltimore Development Corporation	Favorable
Department of Transportation	Favorable

Analysis

Current Law

Article 5 – Finance, Property, and Procurement, Sections -20-2 – Baltimore City Code.

(a) In general.

City property shall be named or renamed by an ordinance of the Mayor and City Council.

(b) Referral of bill.

(1) When legislation is introduced into the City Council to name or rename City property, the legislation shall be referred to:

(i) the Planning Commission;

(ii) the municipal agency that has or will have control over the City property;

(iii) the Department of Real Estate; and

(iv) any other agency that may have an interest in naming the City property.

(2) Within 30 days after referral, the Planning Commission and the municipal agency in control of the City property shall submit reports.

(3) If the reports are not received within the 30-day time period, the City Council may act on the legislation.

Background

Elijah Cummings was a man who needed no introduction, especially within his hometown of Baltimore City. The former politician and Civil Rights activist had a career that spanned 36 years in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Maryland House of Delegates. In the Summer of 1962, Elijah Cummings, as a part of a group of Black American children, endured racial attacks, including rock-throwing, taunts, and physical violence, to integrate the Riverside pool. Riverside Pool was considered a whites-only pool. The group integrated the pool over a series of a few weeks amongst consistent attacks and violent crowds. In one of the incidents, the then-11-year-old Elijah Cummings was injured when a bottle was thrown at him. Despite the racial attacks and threats, the group successfully integrated the pool by the end of the Summer.

If enacted, 24-0597 would change the name of Riverside Park Pool, located at 1800 Covington Street (Block 1940, Lot 001), to the Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Community Pool.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s): City Code, Bill 24-0597, Baltimore Sun, and all agency reports and correspondence received as of this writing.

Analysis by: Niya N. Garrett Direct Inquiries to: (410) 396-1268

Analysis Date: November 7, 2024

AGENCY REPORTS

BILL # 24-0597

CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW
EBONY M. THOMPSON, CITY SOLICITOR
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET
SUITE 101, CITY HALL
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

October 1, 2024

The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
Attn: Executive Secretary
Room 409, City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

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

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 24-0597 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill would rename the Riverside Park Pook to be the Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Community Pool. The Baltimore City Code allows for the naming of property by ordinance. City Code, Art. 5, § 20-2. There are no requirements for the name of real or personal property as there are for names of streets. City Code, Art. 26, §7-1, *et. seq.*

The bill that proposes the ordinance must be referred to the Planning Commission, the municipal agency that will have control over the City property, the Department of Real Estate and any other agency that has an interest in the property. City Code, Art. 5, § 20-2(b). The First Reader version of this bill states that it was referred to the City Solicitor, the Departments of Finance, Recreation and Parks, Transportation and Real Estate, as well as the Baltimore Development Corporation. The bill has not been referred to the Planning Commission. Assuming the bill is referred to the Planning Commission and the land is in the control of the Department of Recreation and Parks, then Law Department can approve it for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

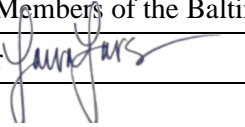
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hilary Ruley".

Hilary Ruley
Chief Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson, City Solicitor
Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor, General Counsel Division
Ashlea Brown, Chief Solicitor
Michelle Toth, Assistant Solicitor
Desiree Lucky, Assistance Solicitor



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Laura Larsen, Budget Director 
DATE	October 1 st , 2024
SUBJECT	City Council Bill 24-0597, City Property – Renaming Riverside Park Pool to the Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Community Pool

Position: Does Not Oppose

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 24-0597, City Property – Renaming Riverside Park Pool to the Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Community Pool, the purpose of which is FOR the purpose of changing the name of Riverside Park Pool, located at 1800 Covington Street (Block 1940, Lot 001), to the Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Community Pool.

Background

This legislation seeks to rename the Riverside Park Pool to the Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Community Pool. This community pool serves is located in South Baltimore and serves the neighborhood where Congressman Cummings was raised, Sharp-Leadenhall.

Congressman Cummings has a personal history with the Riverside Park Pool. In 1954 the Supreme Court ruled that segregation is unconstitutional. Despite this Riverside Park Pool remained segregated, for whites, in practice. In 1962 with the support of the park's recreation leader, an 11-year-old Congressman Cummings and about two dozen other Black children used the pool over the course of a week. As many as 1,000 white protestors arrived to protest their use of the pool. Congressman Cummings and many other children, as well as civil rights leader Juanita Jackson Mitchell, were injured by the protestors while attempting to swim.

Fiscal Impact

Renaming this facility will have a limited fiscal impact.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 24-0597.

cc: Michael Mocksten
Nina Themelis



CITY OF BALTIMORE
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

TO	The Honorable City Council President Nick Mosby Members of the City Council
FROM	Reginald Moore, Executive Director, Baltimore City Recreation & Parks
DATE	October 11, 2024
SUBJECT	City Council Bill 24-0597 City Property - Renaming Riverside Park Pool to the Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Community Pool

Baltimore City Recreation & Parks (BCRP) has been assigned City Council Bill 24-0597, City Property - Renaming Riverside Park Pool to the Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Community Pool For the purpose of changing the name of Riverside Park Pool, located at 1800 Covington Street (Block 1940, Lot 001), to the Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Community Pool.

As a young man, Elijah Cummings other students staged an act of civil disobedience with the NAACP to desegregate the pool. While seemingly a small act, it was a monumental in 1962 and set the pace for many upheavals for the city of Baltimore. It is commonly known as what guided the young Elijah Cummings toward a life of service in defense of his community and his generation.

BCRP supports the legislation to rename the Riverside Park Pool to the Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Community Pool. In addition, we hope that this renaming bolsters our efforts to raise Capital funds for improvements to the facility befitting this great man.

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 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

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.



MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 3, 2024
TO: Ways and Means Committee
FROM: Colin Tarbert, President and CEO
POSITION: Favorable
SUBJECT: Council Bill 24-0597

INTRODUCTION

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) is reporting on City Council Bill 24-0597 introduced by Council President Mosby, Councilmembers Costello, Stokes, Bullock, Schleifer, Conway, Dorsey, Burnett, Ramos, Porter, Glover, Cohen and Torrence.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bill is to request the name change of Riverside Park Pool to The Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Community Pool.

BRIEF HISTORY

Riverside Park Pool at 1800 Covington Street, (Block 1940, Lot 001) has a strong connection to the civil rights movement and the late Congressman Elijah Cummings. During the 1960s the public pool was integrated away from its previous whites only status. Elijah Cummings, who was a youth at this time, attempted to swim at the pool and was attacked by white protesters. In honor of Congressman Elijah Cummings' service and the others who paved the way for Civil Right Movements a name change to the pool is proposed.

FISCAL IMPACT [to BDC]

None.

AGENCY POSITION

The Baltimore Development Corporation respectfully submits a **favorable** report on City Council Bill 24-0597. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Clark at 410-837-9305 or KClark@baltimoredevelopment.com.

cc: Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Ty'lor Schnella, Mayor's Office of Government Relations

HF



BRANDON M. SCOTT

MAYOR

100 Holliday Street, Room 250

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

TO	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
FROM	Corren Johnson, Director – Department of Transportation
DATE	October 10, 2024
SUBJECT	24-0597 City Property - Renaming Riverside Park Pool to the Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Community Pool

Position: Support

Introduction

For the purpose of condemning and closing certain streets and alleys, bounded by West Mulberry Street, North Schroeder Street, West Fairmount Avenue and North Stockton Street, lying within the Poppleton Urban Renewal Area, as shown on a plat numbered 343-A-27A, Sheets 1 through 6, dated January 16, 2024, prepared by the Survey Section and filed in the Office of the Department of Transportation; and providing for a special effective date.

DOT Analysis

Council Bill 24-0597 would name the Riverside Park Pool on 1800 Covington Street after Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, who represented much of Baltimore City from 1995 until his death in 2019. Early on, Cummings would be known for his active role in the Civil Rights Movement. As a Congressman, Cummings worked on and cosponsored legislation focused on safeguarding civil rights and improving public health, among others. A Baltimore City native, Cummings was an active member of his community and a lifelong advocate for the oppressed and underprivileged, from Baltimore to the Capitol.

Conclusion

The Department recognizes the legislative accomplishments of Congressman Cummings and supports to the advancement of Council Bill 24-0597.

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 24-0597
(First Reader)

Introduced by: Councilmember Costello, President Mosby, and Councilmembers Stokes,
Bullock, Schleifer, Conway, Dorsey, Burnett, Ramos, Porter, Glover, Cohen, and Torrence
Introduced and read first time: September 30, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Department of
Planning, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks, Baltimore Development Corporation,
Department of Transportation, Department of Real Estate

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **City Property – Renaming Riverside Park Pool**
3 **to the Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Community Pool**

4 FOR the purpose of changing the name of Riverside Park Pool, located at 1800 Covington Street
5 (Block 1940, Lot 001), to the Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Community Pool.

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 Elijah E. Cummings, the longtime United States Representative for much of Baltimore City,
13 grew up in Sharp-Leadenhall in South Baltimore. As a child, Cummings would join other youths
14 playing in the wading pool at the Sharp Street Community Center. The small pool was not
15 sufficient for the community it was serving. One day in 1962 the center's recreation leader, Jim
16 Smith, gathered up some two dozen Black youth including Cummings and walked down to
17 Riverside Park Pool.

18 In the wake of 1954's *Brown v. Board of Education*, both Maryland Governor Theodore
19 McKeldin and Baltimore City Mayor Tommy D'Alesandro issued executive orders integrating
20 public facilities, but in practice, the Riverside Park Pool was whites only. As the Sharp Street
21 swimmers used Riverside Park's pool over several days, as many as 1,000 white protestors
22 flooded the area, hurling insults, rocks, and bottles. One of those bottles hit the young Elijah,
23 resulting in a scar he would carry with him for the rest of his life. Other Black youth were also
24 injured during these visits, as was Juanita Jackson Mitchell, a lawyer with the NAACP who was
25 the first Black woman to practice law in the state of Maryland. Mitchell and the NAACP sought
26 a blue ribbon commission to investigate the series of incidents, which was refused by then-
27 Governor John Millard Tawes.

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

Council Bill 24-0597

1 The Baltimore City Council seeks to honor the dedicated service of Cummings, as well as
2 his, Mitchell's, and the other community member's participation in the integration of the
3 Riverside Park Pool. By renaming the pool for Congressman Cummings, we recognize the event
4 as part of the larger Civil Rights Movement and Maryland's role in it. The integration of the
5 pool stands alongside the 1960 Morgan State College student sit-ins at Baltimore department
6 stores, the Congress of Racial Equality and Freedom Rider sit-ins of 1961, the 1962 Student
7 Nonviolent Coordinating Committee demonstrations on the Eastern Shore, and Martin Luther
8 King Jr.'s famous "I Have A Dream" speech delivered in August 1963, a year after the scenes at
9 Riverside Park. The City of Baltimore and its longtime champion Elijah E. Cummings are
10 essential elements of the Civil Rights Movement.

11 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
12 name of Riverside Park Pool, located at 1800 Covington Street (Block 1940, Lot 001), is
13 changed to the Congressman Elijah E. Cummings Community Pool.

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