

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 18-0216
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Stokes, President Young, Councilmembers Henry, Dorsey,
Bullock, Burnett, Pinkett, Schleifer, Reisinger, Clarke, Cohen, Middleton, Scott

Introduced and read first time: April 16, 2018

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Planning Commission, Department of
Real Estate, Department of Recreation and Parks, Department of Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **City Property – Renaming Ambrose Kennedy Park to**
3 **Henrietta Lacks Educational Park**

4 FOR the purpose of changing the name of Ambrose Kennedy Park, located at 1002 Harford
5 Avenue, to Henrietta Lacks Educational Park.

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 In January 1951, Henrietta Lacks, an African American woman, went to The
13 Johns Hopkins Hospital because of abnormal pain and bleeding, and she was
14 diagnosed with cervical cancer. During subsequent radiation treatments, doctors
15 removed 2 cervical samples from her, without her knowledge. She died later that
16 year of the disease.

17 The cells from her tumor made their way to the laboratory of researcher Dr.
18 George Otto Gey, where he noticed that they had an unusual property, that of
19 durability, unlike most cells that survived only a few days. He isolated and
20 multiplied a specific cell, thus creating a cell line that he named HeLa, derived
21 from the name of Henrietta Lacks.

22 The HeLa strain revolutionized medical research. Jonas Salk used the strain to
23 develop the polio vaccine, sparking much scientific interest in the cells. Since
24 then over 10,000 patents involving HeLa cells have been registered, and
25 researchers have used the cells to study disease.

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

Council Bill 18-0216

1 In honor of her contributions to medical research, Morgan State University
2 granted Henrietta Lacks a posthumous honorary degree. It is fitting that this park,
3 located at 1002 Harford Avenue, be renamed to honor her.

4 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the
5 name of Ambrose Kennedy Park, located at 1002 Harford Avenue, is changed to Henrietta Lacks
6 Educational Park.

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