


FROM	NAME & TITLE	CHRIS RYER, DIRECTOR	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 TH FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #19-0459 / CITY PROPERTY – NAMING THE COURTHOUSE EAST BUILDING TO BE THE ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS COURTHOUSE		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and
 Members of the City Council
 City Hall, Room 400
 100 North Holliday Street

November 15, 2019

At its regular meeting of November 14, 2019, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #19-0459, for the purpose of naming the Courthouse East Building, located at 111 North Calvert Street, the Elijah E. Cummings Courthouse.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached staff report, which recommended approval of City Council Bill #19-0459 and adopted the following resolution; eight members being present (eight in favor):

RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission concurs with the recommendation of its departmental staff, and recommends that City Council Bill #19-0459 be passed by the City Council.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eric Tiso, Division Chief, Land Use and Urban Design Division at 410-396-8358.

CR/ewt

attachment

cc: Mr. Nicholas Blendy, Mayor's Office
 Mr. Matthew Stegman, Mayor's Office
 Ms. Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office
 The Honorable Edward Reisinger, Council Rep. to Planning Commission
 Mr. Colin Tarbert, BDC
 Mr. Derek Baumgardner, BMZA
 Mr. Geoffrey Veale, Zoning Administration
 Ms. Stephanie Murdock, DHCD
 Ms. Elena DiPietro, Law Dept.
 Mr. Francis Burnszynski, PABC
 Mr. Liam Davis, DOT
 Ms. Natawna Austin, Council Services
 Mr. Dominic McAlily, Council Services



Bernard C. "Jack" Young
Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION

Sean D. Davis, Chairman

STAFF REPORT



Chris Ryer
Director

November 14, 2019

REQUEST: City Council Bill #19-0459/ City Property – Naming the Courthouse East Building to be the Elijah E. Cummings Courthouse: For the purpose of naming the Courthouse East Building, located at 111 North Calvert Street, the Elijah E. Cummings Courthouse.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Laurie Feinberg

INTRODUCED BY: The Council President on behalf of the Administration (Office of the Mayor)

OWNER: The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

SITE/GENERAL AREA

Site Conditions: 111 North Calvert Street is located in the block bounded by North Calvert Street on the west, East Fayette Street on the north, Guilford Avenue on the east, and East Baltimore Street on the south. It is directly across courthouse square from the Clarence M. Mitchell Jr. Courthouse

General Area: The Courthouse East is located in the Downtown area of the City, which is characterized by government buildings, and high-rise commercial and residential buildings. This building is located immediately behind City Hall to the west, and the Inner Harbor is located five blocks to the south.

ANALYSIS

Background: The Honorable Congressman Elijah E. Cumming served as Maryland's 7th district Congressman since 1996. He died in Baltimore October 17, 2019. This bill would name the building known as courthouse east, Elijah E. Cummings Courthouse.

Elijah Eugene Cummings was born in Baltimore January 18, 1951. He graduated from Baltimore City College High School in 1969. He was inducted in the City College Hall of Fame, November 12, 1999. He graduated from Howard University in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science degree in political science. He then went to University of Maryland School of Law, graduating in 1976 with a Juris Doctor and admitted to the Maryland bar that year.

Cummings practiced law in Baltimore. He served in the Maryland House of Delegates from 1983 through 1996 and served as speaker pro tempore, 1995-1996. In 1996, he won the 7th

district seat initially by special election by special election, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of United States Representative Kweisi Mfume. He was reelected to 12 successive terms, serving until his death. He most recently served as Chair of the House, Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Elijah Cumming grew up in South Baltimore but lived in the Madison Park community of Baltimore most of his adult life. He served as a member of the Board of Regents of Morgan State University. In addition, he was a member the United States Naval Academy Board of Visitors, the Maryland Zoo Board of Directors, the Baltimore Aquarium Board of Trustees and numerous other civic organizations.

Shortly after joining the House of Representatives, he started the Elijah Cummings Youth Program (ECYP). This program is for high school students in the 7th Congressional district to participate in hands on leadership activities, take a month long trip to Israel, where fellows are paired with Israeli teens with ancestry from over 24 countries including Brazil, Ethiopia, Germany and Russia and culminates with community service that connects the ECYP fellows with middle school students.

He lay in state in National Statuary Hall, October 24, 2019. Cummings appears to be the first African American and African American lawmaker to lie in state in the US Capitol, according to congressional historians.

Cummings dedicated he career to Baltimore, from his work as a lawyer, member of the House of Delegates and the United States Congress. Staff recommends approval of City Council Bill #19-0459 naming the Courthouse East Building to be the Elijah E. Cummings Courthouse.

Notification: Notice of this action was sent to Dr. Maya Rockeymore Cummings, as well as to over 16,000 individual e-mail addresses via GovDelivery.



Chris Ryer
Director