

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 20-0549
(First Reader)

Introduced by: Councilmember Dorsey, President Scott, Councilmembers Henry, Pinkett,
Burnett, Sneed

Introduced and read first time: June 22, 2020

Assigned to: Housing and Urban Affairs Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Planning Commission, Department of
Real Estate, Department of Transportation, Department of General Services

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **City Property – Renaming the Columbus Obelisk Monument to**
3 **the Police Violence Victims Monument**

4 FOR the purpose of changing the name of the Columbus Obelisk Monument, located in Heinz
5 Park (Block 4197 Lot 002), to the Police Violence Victims Monument.

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 Undoing white supremacy requires us to reject historical narratives that serve as
13 its underpinnings, which we know to be false. This includes the heroizing,
14 mythologizing, and white washing of some of history’s worst actors, from
15 Columbus to the Confederacy, the continuation of which constitutes an act of
16 propaganda.

17 Today, monuments still stand as manifestations of these lies, even while the same
18 system of white supremacy continues its reign of physical and systemic violence
19 against Black and Brown people. This violence takes many forms including
20 pervasive and appalling police violence.

21 In 2020 we face yet another moment of reckoning with racism and white
22 supremacy, which again has been sparked by an incident of police violence; five
23 years after the killing of Freddie Gray; remembering the deaths of Korryn Gaines,
24 Anton Black, Tyrone West, Dale Graham, and other Marylanders who were killed
25 by police; acknowledging the difficult struggle faced by survivors of police
26 violence like Keith Davis, Abdul Salaam, Jamar Kennedy; and in the aftermath of
27 the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Rayshard Brooks,
28 and so many others nationwide.

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

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1 This moment has brought many new people to join the police abolition
2 movement, and it has moved governments and citizens all across the country to
3 take down their monuments. Rather than continue to allow monuments to stand
4 to murderers, brutalizers, and oppressors, we should honor the memories of
5 victims who have lost their lives, and create space for those survivors who
6 continue to persevere.

7 And so a beacon will stand in tribute to those who are victims of police violence and
8 brutality, and their families and friends who bear the weight of trauma, signifying for all
9 to see that their lives and stories matter, and that our work will be to change the system
10 that wronged them.

11 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
12 name of the Columbus Obelisk Monument, located in Heinz Park (Block 4197 Lot 002), is
13 changed to the Police Violence Victims Monument.

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