

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 20-0628
(First Reader)

Introduced by: Councilmember Costello

At the request of: Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore, Inc.

Address: c/o Laurie Schwartz, Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore, Inc., 650 South Exeter
Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

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Introduced and read first time: October 5, 2020

Assigned to: Judiciary Committee

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

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **City Property – Naming a Pavilion and a Nature Park in the Joseph H. Rash Playfield**
3 **to be the BGE Pavilion and the BGE Nature Park**

4 FOR the purpose of naming a pavilion in the Joseph H. Rash Playfield (Block 890, Lot 006), to be
5 located at the coordinates of 39.281483, - 76.610425, the BGE Pavilion; and naming a nature
6 park in the Joseph H. Rash Playfield (Block 890, Lot 006), to be located at the coordinates of
7 39,281657, - 76,610659, the BGE Nature Park.

8 BY authority of

9 Article 5 - Finance, Property, and Procurement
10 Section 20-2
11 Baltimore City Code
12 (Edition 2000)

13 **Recitals**

14 Rash Field is a 7.5-acre public park located at 301 Key Highway, along the south
15 shore of the Inner Harbor. The park was opened in 1977, though in the decades
16 since has largely sat vacant and underused. In partnership with Baltimore City
17 Recreation and Parks and the Baltimore Development Corporation, Waterfront
18 Partnership has worked with a team of city officials, community leaders, and
19 local businesses to transform Rash Field into Rash Field Park.

20 Of the \$17 million Phase I project cost, \$9.5 million has been committed by the
21 Mayor and City Council in the Capital Improvement Program (with an additional
22 \$1 million in the FY 2021 CIP) and \$4.3 million from the State of Maryland.
23 Waterfront Partnership has committed to raising the remainder – more than \$2
24 million – from private sources.

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

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1 Baltimore Gas and Electric Co (BGE) has offered to donate up to \$1 million
2 toward park renovations. Such a charitable contribution will come from
3 shareholders and will not be recovered from utility customers in electric and gas
4 rates.

5 In recognition of its significant contribution and support for many community
6 efforts, Waterfront Partnership proposes to name the Pavilion and Nature Park in
7 honor of BGE. Without its funding, the park could not be built as planned.

8 The Inner Harbor is an incredible asset for Baltimore. The Rash Field Park
9 project has been designed and is being built to serve primarily citywide residents,
10 as well as tourists. The economic benefits are numerous. Over the construction
11 period it is estimated there will be approximately 370 jobs on the site. Materials
12 removed from the site have been donated to the nonprofit Second Chance
13 organization, with proceeds dedicated to workforce training. The M/WBE
14 construction subcontracts exceed the city's requirements. And when the Park
15 opens, landscape maintenance and cleaning on the site will include ongoing
16 workforce training.

17 Baltimore Gas and Electric Company was founded in 1816 and is the largest
18 energy utility in Maryland. BGE has a long-standing reputation for serving the
19 Baltimore community. Each year, BGE employees donate more than 25,000
20 volunteer hours and contribute more than \$5 million to worthy nonprofits
21 throughout the Baltimore region. In response to the coronavirus outbreak, BGE
22 has donated an additional \$300,000 to the United Way of Central Maryland,
23 Maryland Food Bank and Baltimore Community Foundation to respond to
24 community need. For these reasons and more, the Maryland Chamber of
25 Commerce and the Baltimore Business Journal awarded BGE the Maryland
26 Corporate Philanthropy Award in the large corporation category.

27 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That a
28 pavilion in the Joseph H. Rash Playfield (Block 890, Lot 006), to be located at the coordinates of
29 39.281483, - 76.610425, is named the BGE Pavilion, and that a nature park in the Joseph H.
30 Rash Playfield (Block 890, Lot 006), to be located at the coordinates of 39,281657, - 76,610659,
31 is named the BGE Nature Park.

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