



**BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**

Mission Statement

On behalf of the Citizens of Baltimore City, the Committee on Economic and Community Development (ECD) is responsible for supporting strong thriving communities ECD will review proposed zoning and land use changes, tackle issues related to economic development, oversee housing policy, and promote equitable economic opportunity for all Baltimore residents.

The Honorable Sharon Green Middleton

PUBLIC HEARING

February 9, 2021

2:00 PM

Virtual Webex Meeting

City Council Bill #21-0008

**City Property - Naming the Playground in Northwest Park, Located at 2027
West Rogers Avenue, to be the Rikki Spector Playground**

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John Bullock
Mark Conway
Ryan Dorsey
Antonio Glover
Odette Ramos
Robert Stokes
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Committee: Economic and Community Development

Bill 21-0008

City Property - Naming the Playground in Northwest Park, Located at 2027 West Rogers Avenue, to be the Rikki Spector Playground

Purpose:

For the purpose of naming the playground in Northwest Park, located at 2027 West Rogers Avenue and approximately 100 feet from the street, to be the Rikki Spector Playground.

Effective Date: 30th day after enactment

Background

According to the Baltimore City Code, Article 20, Section 2, City property must be renamed via an ordinance. Bill 21-0008 proposes to rename a playground located on West Rogers Avenue in the Northwest Park to be the Rikki Spector Playground. The playground is situated in the Upper Park Area along with a gym building, community gardens and a parking lot.

Northwest Park is a 49.1-acre parcel situated alongside the Jones Falls Trail in Baltimore City's Park Heights community. There are four primary areas in the park (Upper Park, Lower Park, Enslow Fields and Wooded Perimeter) which are used for active and passive recreational activities.

Councilwoman Rochelle "Rikki" Spector served as a representative for residents of the 5th City Council district for over forty years. She was instrumental in working with the Mount Washington Improvement Association and the Pimlico Community Development Authority to obtain funding to build Northwest Park, which opened in May 2016.

According to the Department of Finance, the average cost for a metal sign, produced by the Department of Transportation, is \$252.00.

Amendments

- The Department of Recreation and Parks is proposing to amend the bill to correct the address, which should be “2021 West Rogers Avenue”.
- The Planning Commission is proposing to amend the bill to correct the name to Rochelle “Rikki” Spector playground.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: Available

See Attached Agency Report: Department of Finance, Bureau of the Budget and Management Research, Dated February 1, 2021.

Information Source(s): Bill 21-0008; Agency Reports, Department of Recreation & Parks - Northwest Park Master Plan

Analysis by: Jennifer L. Coates
Analysis Date: February 3, 2021

Direct Inquiries to: (410) 396-1260

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 21-0008
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Schleifer, Middleton
Introduced and read first time: January 11, 2021
Assigned to: Economic and Community Development Committee

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

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **City Property – Naming the Playground in Northwest Park, Located at**
3 **2027 West Rogers Avenue, to be the Rikki Spector Playground**

4 FOR the purpose of naming the playground in Northwest Park, located at 2027 West Rogers
5 Avenue and approximately 100 feet from the street, to be the Rikki Spector Playground.

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 Rochelle “Rikki” Spector, a longtime member of the Baltimore City Council,
13 represented district residents from 1977 until 2016. Councilwoman Spector
14 assisted the MWIA in working with PCDA to receive funds to build the children’s
15 playground. The board of MWIA requested naming the unnamed playground for
16 her, in an area of Baltimore that she once represented.

17 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
18 playground in Northwest Park, located at 2027 West Rogers Avenue and approximately 100 feet
19 from the street, is named the Rikki Spector Playground.

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



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

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Bill 21-0008

AGENCY REPORTS

Planning Commission	Favorable/Amend
Department of Finance	Favorable
Department of Law	Favorable
Baltimore Development Corporation	
Department of Recreation and Parks	Favorable/Amend

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 #21-0008 / City Property – Naming the playground in Northwest Park, located at 2027 West Rogers Avenue, to be the Rikki Spector Playground		

TO

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

DATE: February 5, 2021

At its regular meeting of February 4, 2021, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #21-0008, for the purpose of naming the playground in Northwest Park, located at 2027 West Rogers Avenue and approximately 100 feet from the street, to be the Rikki Spector Playground.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached staff report, which recommended amendment and approval of City Council Bill #21-0008, 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 #21-0008 be amended passed by the City Council, with the following amendments:

- That the address of the park is corrected to 2021 West Rogers Avenue; and
- That the name is corrected to the Rochelle “Rikki” Spector playground.

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: Ms. Natasha Mehu, Mayor’s Office
 Ms. Nina Themelis, Mayor’s Office
 The Honorable Eric Costello, Council Rep. to Planning Commission
 The Honorable Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, 5th District
 Mr. Matthew Stegman, City Council President’s Office
 Ms. Nikki Thompson, City Council President’s Office
 Mr. Colin Tarbert, BDC
 Ms. Kathleen Byrne, 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



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

PLANNING COMMISSION

Sean D. Davis, Chairman

STAFF REPORT



Chris Ryer
Director

February 4, 2021

REQUEST: City Council Bill #21-0008/ City Property - Naming the Playground in Northwest Park, Located at 2027 West Rogers Avenue, to be the Rikki Spector Playground:

For the purpose of naming the playground in Northwest Park, located at 2027 West Rogers Avenue and approximately 100 feet from the street, to be the Rikki Spector Playground.

RECOMMENDATION: Amend to correct Councilwoman's name and the address of the Park and approve.

STAFF: Laurie Feinberg

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmembers Schleifer and Middleton

OWNER: State of Maryland / Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

SITE/GENERAL AREA

Site Conditions: The playground is part of the larger, 45-acre, Northwest Park located at 2021 West Rogers Avenue. The Park property is owned by the State of Maryland with a 99 year lease to the City.

General Area: The park is located in the Mount Washington Community and it includes a major section of the Jones Falls hiking and hiking trail.

HISTORY

There are no previous legislative or Planning Commission actions regarding this site.

ANALYSIS

The playground is a new 3,000 sqft playground, completed in May of 2016. It includes two play structures and swings atop rubber safety surfacing. A shade sail, benches, and accessible walkway were also integral to the project. It is located toward the street side of the 45 acres park and is along the newly completed Jones Falls Trail.

It was designed and constructed under the direction of Recreation and Parks and funded with \$258,000 in Pimlico Local Impact Aid.

Councilwoman Rochelle "Rikki" Spector was first appointed to the Baltimore City Council in June of 1977 to fill the term of her husband, who vacated the seat after accepting a judicial appointment. Two years later, Rikki earned the confidence of her constituents and was elected to the seat in her own right. She was subsequently re-elected to represent her Northwest Baltimore

district a record-setting nine more times. Her nearly forty years in office earned Rikki the distinction of being the longest locally elected official in the State of Maryland, as well as the title of “Dean of the Baltimore City Council.”

During her four decades in office, Rikki was an ally, friend, and counselor of every Mayor from William Donald Schaefer to Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. Her time in office focused on several areas: always being accessible to her constituents and responsive to their issues; standing strongly with the city’s small business community in order to create jobs and economic opportunity; and advocating for local government by protecting against unfunded state and federal mandates.

Rikki served for many years as Baltimore’s representative to the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo). In this capacity, she defended the city’s autonomy and fought against fiscal burdens created by costs shifted down from the state and federal government. She was such a staple within the local government community that she earned another moniker as the “Grande Dame of MACo.” In 2016, MACo honored her with a lifetime achievement award at their winter conference.

In addition, Councilwoman Spector served as the City Council representative to the Planning Commission from 1997 to February 2010 and again from January 2012 to her retirement in 2016.

In December 2016, Rikki decided to retire from the City Council. In retirement she continues to assist her former constituents when she can, counseling elected officials, speaking to groups, and pursuing her latest passion of reforming the juvenile justice system. She is an active Board member of UEmpower of Maryland, a non-profit dedicated to helping the youth of southwest Baltimore with job and life skills focusing of food related industries.

Councilwoman Spector worked hard to get the playground at Northwest Park completed so it is very appropriate to honor her with the naming.

Amendment: Councilwoman Spector was known to colleagues and friends as Rikki but her given name is Rochelle. In her official capacity, she used Rochelle “Rikki” Spector. The bill should be amended to reflect her name properly. In addition, the bill has the incorrect address for the park, it should be 2021 West Rogers Avenue not 2027.

Notification: The Mount Washington Community Association and numerous individuals involved in the playground.



Chris Ryer
Director

BaltAC

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cename, Budget Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall (410) 396-4774		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 21-0008 City Property – Naming the Playground in Northwest Park, Located at 2027 West Rogers Avenue, to be the Rikki Spector Playground		

TO

DATE:

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400

February 1, 2021

Position: Does Not Oppose

The Department of Finance is herein report on City Council Bill #21-0008, introduced for the purpose of naming the playground in Northwest Park, located at 2027 West Rogers Avenue, to be the Rikki Spector Playground.

Background

Rochelle “Rikki” Spector represented district residents from 1977 to 2016 as a member of the Baltimore City Council. Councilmember Spector assisted the Mount Washington Improvement Association to work with Pimlico Community Development Authority to achieve funds to build the playground. The board of MWIA requested to name this playground after the Councilmember to acknowledge her role in the playground’s construction.

Fiscal Impact

The Department of Finance anticipates that this legislation will have a minimal fiscal impact for the City. Anticipated costs would be solely for new signage with the new name of the facility. The average cost for a metal sign, produced by the Department of Transportation, is \$252, which includes the sign materials, design, hardware, and installation.

Conclusion

The Department of Finance anticipates that this legislation will be of minimal cost to the City.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 21-0008.

cc: Henry Raymond
Matthew Stegman
Nina Themelis

February 5, 2021

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 21-0008 – City property – Naming the playground in Northwest Park,
located at 2027 West Rogers Avenue, to be the Rikki Spector Playground

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department has reviewed City Council Bill 21-0008, which would name the playground in Northwest Park, located at 2027 West Rogers Avenue and approximately 100 feet from the street, to be the Rikki Spector Playground.

The City Code requires that property owned by the Mayor and City Council be named by ordinance. City Code, Art. 5, § 20-1, *et. seq.* The municipal agency that “has or will have control” over the property must be referred the bill for comment, in addition to the Planning Commission and the Department of Real Estate. §20-2(b). Presumably, the Department of Recreation and Parks is the agency that will control this property and has been referred the bill. Assuming the other requirements have been met, the Law Department would approve Council Bill 21-0008 for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,



Ashlea Brown
Assistant Solicitor

cc Nina Themelis, Mayor’s Office of Government Relations
Nikki Thompson, Director of Legislative Affairs
Elena DiPietro, Chief Solicitor
Hilary Ruley, Chief Solicitor
Victor Tervalá, Chief Solicitor

<p>CITY OF BALTIMORE</p> <p>BRANDON M. SCOTT, <i>Mayor</i></p>		<p>DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS</p> <p>REGINALD MOORE, <i>Executive Director</i> Dr. Ralph W. E. Jones, Jr. Building 3001 East Drive - Druid Hill Park Baltimore, Maryland 21217 410-396-7900</p>
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DATE: Monday, February 1, 2021

TO: Honorable Council President Mosby & Members of the City Council
FROM: Baltimore City Recreation & Parks
POSITION: Support

Re: City Council Bill #21-0008 – City Property – Naming the Playground in Northwest Park, Located at 2027 West Rogers Avenue, to be the Rikki Spector Playground

Dear Council President Mosby & Members of City Council,

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks (BCRP) has reviewed City Council Bill 21-0008, “for the purpose of naming the playground in Northwest Park,” “located at 2027 West Rogers to be the Rikki Spector Playground.”

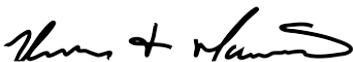
Uniquely situated within Northwest Park and alongside the Jones Falls Trail, the playground opened in May 2016 as part of the Northwest Park improvements. The project was the result of a collaboration between the State of Maryland and the City of Baltimore. The playground was developed in concert with the Mt. Washington Improvement Association (MWIA). As a Council member and as a leader in MACO, Councilwoman Rochelle “Rikki” Spector knew how to make a success of complicated situations. Applications for funding of this amenity were submitted to the Pimlico Community Development Authority (PCDA) by the MWIA and Councilwoman Spector. At the playground’s grand opening ceremony, the Councilwoman was chosen to cut the ribbon.

Councilwoman Spector honorably served the citizens of District 5 from for over forty years. She has long been a champion for Baltimore’s youth and served as Chair for the Maryland Children's Program Awards Committee and the State Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council.

We would like to note that the address listed on the legislation is incorrect and should be amended to read “2021 W. Rogers Avenue.” Once corrected, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks is happy to ‘Support with Amendment,’ City Council Bill 21-0008.

Please note that we would like to highlight the lack of funding available for sign changes associated with these naming requests. We will address this in our naming policy moving forward. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jenny Morgan, *Legislative Liaison* at jmorgan@baltimorecity.gov or at 410-396-7900.

Respectfully,



Reginald Moore
Executive Director
City of Baltimore, Department of Recreation & Parks

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Bill 21-0008

Amendments

**AMENDMENTS TO COUNCIL BILL 21-0008
(1st Reader Copy)**

Proposed by: Department of Recreation and Parks
{To be offered to the Economic and Community Development Committee}

Amendment No. 1

On page 1, in line 3, strike “**2027 West Rogers Avenue**” and substitute “**2021 West Rogers Avenue**”; and, on that same page, in lines 4 and 5 and in line 18, in each instance, strike “2027 West Rogers Avenue” and substitute “**2021 West Rogers Avenue**”.