



<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	CHRIS RYER, DIRECTOR 	CITY of BALTIMORE  <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 8 <sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #21-0108 / CITY PROPERTY - RENAMING JAMES MOSHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO BILLIE HOLIDAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL		

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

DATE: August 27, 2021

At its regular meeting of August 26, 2021, the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #21-0108, for the purpose of changing the name of James Mosher Elementary School, located at 2400 Mosher Street, to Billie Holiday Elementary School.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached staff report, which recommended approval of City Council Bill #21-0108 and adopted the following resolution; nine members being present (seven in favor of recommending disapproval, one against the motion, and one abstained):

RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission voted to not accept the recommendation of its departmental staff, and instead recommends that City Council Bill #21-0108 be disapproved 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: Ms. Natasha Mehu, Mayor's Office  
 Ms. Nina Themelis, Mayor's Office  
 The Honorable Eric Costello, Council Rep. to Planning Commission  
 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



Brandon M. Scott  
Mayor

## PLANNING COMMISSION

Sean D. Davis, Chairman

### STAFF REPORT



Chris Ryer  
Director

August 26, 2021

**REQUEST:** City Council Bill #21-0108/ City Property– Renaming James Mosher Elementary School to Billie Holiday Elementary School

For the purpose of changing the name of James Mosher Elementary Mosher Street, located at 2400 Mosher Street, to Billie Holiday Elementary School.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approval

**STAFF:** Ivor A. Quashie

**INTRODUCED BY:** Councilmembers John T. Bullock & Phylicia Porter

**OWNER:** The Mayor & City Council of Baltimore

#### **SITE/GENERAL AREA**

Site Conditions: This site is located in west Baltimore with Winchester Road to the north, North Warwick Street to the west, Wheeler Avenue to the east, Mosher Avenue to the south.

General Area: The general area is a residential community of two-story homes. The property is zoned R-6 and is surrounded by IMU-1, R-7, OS, C-2 zoning districts.

#### **HISTORY**

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

#### **ANALYSIS**

Eleanora Fagan known professionally as Billie Holiday, was born in Philadelphia, to parents Sarah Julia "Sadie" Fagan and Clarence Halliday, on April 7, 1915. Not long after Eleanora was born, Clarence abandoned his family to pursue a career as a jazz banjo player and guitarist. Sarah, Eleonora's mother asked her half-sister in Baltimore to watch her while she worked on the railroad to support her and her daughter.

After a turbulent childhood, Holiday moved to New York began singing in nightclubs in Harlem, where she was heard by producer John Hammond, who liked her voice. Bille sung jazz and swing music. Nicknamed "Lady Day" by her friend and music partner Lester Young, Holiday had an innovative influence on jazz music and pop singing. Her vocal style, strongly inspired by jazz instrumentalists, pioneered a new way of manipulating phrasing and tempo. She was known for her vocal delivery and improvisational skills.

She signed a recording contract with Brunswick in 1935. Collaborations with Teddy Wilson produced the hit "What a Little Moonlight Can Do," which became a jazz standard. Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, Holiday had mainstream success on labels such as Columbia and Decca. Holiday, who joined bandleaders Count Basie in 1937 and Artie Shaw in 1938, was one of the first black women to work with a white orchestra. By the late 1940s, however, she was beset with legal troubles and drug abuse. After a short prison sentence, she performed at a sold-out concert at Carnegie Hall. She was a successful concert performer throughout the 1950s with two further sold-out shows at Carnegie Hall. Because of personal struggles and an altered voice, her final recordings were met with mixed reaction but were mild commercial successes. Her final album, *Satin*, was released in 1958. Holiday died of cirrhosis on July 17, 1959, at age 44.

Holiday won four Grammy Awards, all of them posthumously, for Best Historical Album. Billie Holiday's most popular songs were *Strange Fruit*, *Summertime* and *God Bless the Child*. She was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame and the National Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame. She was also inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall.

Staff recommends approval of this bill.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Ryer", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Chris Ryer**  
**Director**