COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
WITNESS LIST
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

CHAIRMAN PHIL MENDELSON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC HEARING

on

Bill 20-110, Belmont Park Designation and Establishment Act of 2013

Bill 20-432, Calvin and Wilhelmina Rolark Way Designation Act of 2013


Bill 20-525, Annie’s Way Designation Act of 2013

on

Thursday, November 14, 2013
11:00 a.m., Hearing Room 120, John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

WITNESS LIST

Bill 20-110, Belmont Park Designation and Establishment Act of 2013

1. Dr. David Bender
   ANC 2D01, Chair

2. Kindy French
   Ward 2 Resident

3. Holly Sukenik
   Restore Mass Ave and Preserve Our Green Space in Sheridan-Kalorama

4. Donna Hays
   Sheridan-Kalorama Historical Association, Vice President

5. Marie Drissel
   Sheridan-Kalorama Neighborhood Council

6. Barbara Burgin
   Spanish Steps, Vice President

7. Pierre Wagner
   Friends of Mitchell Park, President
**Bill 20-432 Calvin and Wilhelmina Rolark Way Designation Act of 2013**

8. Warner Session  
   MWAA Board Member
9. Denise Rolark-Barnes  
   Washington Informer, Publisher

**Bill 20-439 Closing of a Public Alley in Square 150, S.O. 13-1218, Act of 2013**

10. Dionne Holliday  
    Applicant

**Bill 20-525 Annie’s Way Designation Act of 2013**

11. Mike Silverstein  
    ANC 2B06
12. Kishan Putta  
    ANC 2B04

**Government Witness**

13. Sheila Bunn  
    Deputy Chief of Staff, Executive Office of the Mayor
14. Rick Driest  
    Surveyor, District of Columbia
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

CHAIRMAN PHIL MENDELSON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC HEARING

on

Bill 20-110 “Belmont Park Designation and Establishment Act of 2013”
Bill 20-432 “Calvin and Wilhelmina Rolark Way Designation Act of 2013”
Bill 20-525 “Annie’s Way Designation Act of 2013”

on

Thursday, November 14, 2013
11:00 a.m., Hearing Room 120, John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Council Chairman Phil Mendelson announces a public hearing of the Committee of the Whole on Bill 20-110, the “Belmont Park Designation and Establishment Act of 2013,” Bill 20-432, the “Calvin and Wilhelmina Rolark Way Designation Act of 2013,” Bill 20-439, the “Closing of Public Alley in Square 150, S.O. 13-10218, Act of 2013” and Bill 20-525, the “Annie’s Way Designation Act of 2013.” The public hearing will be held Thursday, November 14, 2013, at 11:00 a.m. in Hearing Room 120 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. This notice has been revised to reflect a change in the Hearing Room from The Council Chamber to Hearing Room 120.

The stated purpose of Bill 20-110 is to approve the designation of the public right-of-way adjacent Lot 197 in Square 2526 in Ward 2 as Belmont Park and establish it as a public park under the auspices of the Department of Parks and Recreation. The stated purpose of Bill 20-432 is to approve the symbolic designation of the 500 block of Foxhall Place, S.E. in Ward 8 as Calvin and Wilhelmina Rolark Way. The stated purpose of Bill 20-439 is to order the closing of a public alley in Square 150 bounded by Seaton Street, N.W., Florida Ave, N.W., and 17th Street, N.W. in Ward 1. Approval of Bill 20-439 will allow for the elimination a paper alley located on the applicant’s property. The stated purpose of Bill 20-525 is to approve the symbolic designation of the 1600 block of Church Street, N.W. in Ward 2 as Annie’s Way.

Those who wish to testify are asked to telephone the Committee of the Whole, at (202) 724-8126, or e-mail Crispus Gordon, III, Legislative Assistant, at cgordon@dccouncil.us and provide their name, address, telephone number, and organizational affiliation, if any, by the close of business Tuesday, November 12, 2013. Persons wishing to testify are encouraged, but not required, to submit 15 copies of written testimony. If submitted by the close of business on November 12, 2013, the testimony will be distributed to Councilmembers before the hearing. Witnesses should limit their testimony to five minutes; less time will be allowed if there are a large number of witnesses. Copies of Bill 20-110, Bill 20-432, Bill 20-439, and Bill 20-525 can be obtained through the Legislative Services Division of the Secretary of the Council or on http://dclims1.dccouncil.us/lims.

If you are unable to testify at the hearing, written statements are encouraged and will be made a part of the official record. Copies of written statements should be submitted to the Committee of the Whole, Council of the District of Columbia, Suite 410 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004. The record will close at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 29, 2013.
Government of the District of Columbia

Executive Office of the Mayor

Testimony of

SHEILA BUNN

Deputy Chief of Staff

Before the Council of the District of Columbia

Committee of the Whole

Phil Mendelson, Chair

PUBLIC HEARING

Bill 20-110 "Belmont Park Designation and Establishment Act of 2013"

Bill 20-432 "Calvin and Wilhelmina Rolark Way Designation Act of 2013"

Bill 20-439 "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 150, S.O. 13-10218, Act of 2013"

Bill 20-525 "Annie's Way Designation Act of 2013"

Thursday, November 14, 2013

11:00 a.m., Hearing Room 120, John A. Wilson Building

1350 Pennsylvania A venue, NW

Washington, DC 20004
Good morning Chairman Mendelson, Committee Members, and residents. I am Sheila Bunn, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Executive Office of the Mayor. It is a pleasure to testify today, on behalf of Mayor Vincent C. Gray, in support for each of the bills before the Committee of the Whole.

Bill 20-110, the "Belmont Park Designation and Establishment Act of 2013", would approve the designation of the public right-of-way west of Connecticut Avenue, N.W., at the Connecticut Avenue/Belmont Road, N.W. intersection as Belmont Park. The legislation requires the Mayor to transfer purview of the property to the Department of Parks and Recreation within 90 days of enactment. The Executive supports this legislation with the understanding that funding would need to be identified to support the establishment of a new park. We strongly recommend the inclusion of language stating that this legislation will be subject to its inclusion in an approved budget plan. This language will ensure the community receives well-planned and aesthetically pleasing park space through appropriate funding and design.

Bill 20-432 "Calvin and Wilhelmina Rolark Way Designation Act of 2013", honors the lifetime of service of these outstanding Washingtonians by ceremonially designating the 500 block of Foxhall Place, S.E., Calvin and
Wilhelmina Rolark Way. Wilhelmina Jackson Rolark was born in a suburb of Portsmouth, Virginia, and came to the District to earn her undergraduate degree from Howard University and her law degree from the Terrell Law School. As a young attorney practicing law in the 1940s, she successfully worked on many civil rights cases in the District, and in 1970, she founded the National Association of Black Women Attorneys.

Mrs. Rolark and her husband, the late Dr. Calvin Rolark, founded the United Black Fund, a non-profit organization that provides funding to community-based organizations. This organization is instrumental in facilitating services for our poorer communities and residents. In 1976, Ms. Rolark was elected to represent Ward 8 on the Council of the District of Columbia. Councilmember Rolark served four consecutive terms. Councilmember Rolark improved the quality of life for residents not only in Ward 8, but throughout the District during her service. Bill 20-432 is a well-deserved honor for these two exemplary District residents.

Bill 20-439 "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 150, S.O. 13-10218, Act of 2013" would close an unimproved, five-foot by twenty-foot, alley bounded by Seaton Street, NW in Ward 1. This alley is not needed for any public purpose, and closing the alley would resolve a serious challenge for some residents. The applicant, Ms. Dionne Holiday, was referred to the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Engagement this spring regarding obstacles she was encountering
while attempting to sell her inherited Grandmother’s house. After consultation with the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, it was determined that the original surveyor records indicated a public alley in what is actually part of the home. After consultation with the Office of the Surveyor, it was determined that public records suggest that part of the home was in an alley. This phenomenon is commonly known as a *Paper Alley*. The legal remedy is to introduce legislation, which the Mayor has done, closing the paper alley in order for the owner to sell or develop the property.

Paper alley closings require commentary and permissions from multiple public and private agencies. All of the required agencies have provided no contest opinions to the proposed paper alley closing. The Council’s approval will allow Ms. Holiday to sell her inherited grandmother’s home.

Finally, Bill 20-525 "Annie’s Way Designation Act of 2013" symbolically designates the 1600 block of Church Street, NW, between 17th Street, NW and Stead Park as Annie’s Way to honor the historic legacy of Annie’s Paramount Steak House ("Annie’s") in the Dupont Circle community of Ward 2. Mayor Gray worked with Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B to introduce this timely and well-deserved legislation.
Annie’s Paramount Steak House opened in early 1948, on the corner of 17th and Church Streets. Mr. George Katinas opened what was then Paramount Steakhouse. The bar and grill was where guests from all walks of life were welcomed. Helping George were his sisters, Sue Stouts and Annie Kaylor. Their sense of acceptance soon made the restaurant a place where our GLBT community could come and feel comfortable, safe, and free from discrimination.

In the 1960's, Annie's name was added to the restaurant, and thus the name Annie's Paramount Steakhouse was born. Annie's, the moniker, that the restaurant now is commonly known, witnessed the civil-right riots of the 60's and the decline of 17th Street, but remained committed to the neighborhood and the community. This year, Annie’s is celebrating its 65th anniversary in the District. Moreover, the Mayor, and his Administration, was saddened to learn of the passing of Ms. Kaylor earlier this year. It is our hope that by honoring the legacy she helped to build with the restaurant, we will provide some comfort to the entire Annie’s Paramount Steak House family.

In conclusion, for the reasons stated here today, the Gray Administration fully supports each of the bills for your consideration. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.
From: KindyF@verizon.net
To: clairierre@verizon.net
CC: rnevitt562@gmail.com; whburgin@gmail.com; ctchapin@comcast.net; hsukenik@hotmail.com; jtyonemoto@gmail.com; marty638@gmail.com; betsysanta@gmail.com; alisonadkins@verizon.net; jholland@his.com; kindyf@verizon.net
Subject: RE: B20-110
Date: Sat, 9 Nov 2013 13:46:21 -0500

thank you FOMP board for your support. is anyone available to attend this thursday's (11/14) hearing and read FOMP's support into the record. 1350 penn ave, NW, district building, 11 AM (maybe room 500). kf

kindy french
202-332-8263
202-332-8009 (fax)
kindyf@verizon.net

From: Pierre Wagner [mailto:clairierre@verizon.net]
Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2013 10:18 AM
To: CGordon@DCCOUNCIL.US
Cc: Robert Nevitt; Barbara & Walter Burgin; Carroll Chapin; Claire, Pierre Wagner; Holly Sukenik; Jeanett Yonemoto; Marty Scherr; Betsy Santarlasci; Alison Adkins; Kindy French; Paula Holland
Subject: Fw: B20-110

----- Original Message ----- 
From: Pierre Wagner
To: pmendelson@dccouncil.washington.dc.us
Cc: Robert Nevitt ; Barbara & Walter Burgin ; Carroll Chapin ; Claire, Pierre Wagner ; Holly Sukenik ; Jeanett Yonemoto ; Marty Scherr ; Betsy Santarlasci ; Alison Adkins ; Kindy French ; Paula Holland
Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2013 10:13 AM
Subject: B20-110

The FRIENDS of MITCHELL PARK, and its the Board, fully support the "Belmont Park Designation Establishment Act of 2013".
This transfer to the Department of Parks and Recreation will regularize an existing situation, and will give to the District the opportunity to bring and maintain an existing neglected walking trail to a safe and clean public area.

For the Friends of Mitchell Park,
Pierre Wagner, President
202-332-5501
clairierre@verizon.net
Belmont Rd approval

Walter Burgin <whburgin@gmail.com> Sun, Nov 10, 2013 at 2:55 PM
To: pmendelson@dccouncil.washington.dc.us
Cc: dbenderphd <dbenderphd@aol.com>, Kindy French <kindyf@verizon.net>, David Deckelbaum <ddeckelbaum@settlementcorp.com>, Holly Sukenik <hsukenik@hotmail.com>

Councilmember Mendelson,

The Board members of the Spanish Steps would like to urge the Council members to support the establishment of the unpaved stretch of Belmont Rd (Connecticut Ave. to Kalorama Circle) now under DDOT jurisdiction to DPR for Belmont Park.

Although a small stretch of land, it is now overgrown and supports homeless dwellings which are a blight on our community, as well as the city. Should you approve of this transfer, the Park would be kept clean by a caring neighborhood interested in preserving an additional green space.

Thank you for your consideration.

Barbara Burgin
Vice President
Spanish Steps
Good morning, Council Chair Mendelson, and members of the Council.

My name is Kindy French, I have lived in DC for 44 years, 26 years in Sheridan-Kalorama.

Thank you, Mr. Mendelson for your consideration of Bill 20-110, the Belmont Park Designation and Establishment Act. I support this bill. I will summarize my complete written statement, which I ask be placed in the record.

I am grateful to Council Member David Catania for developing this legislation, and providing the District with such an exciting opportunity, and to co-sponsors – Council Member Jack Evans of our Ward 2, and Council Member Mary Cheh, Ward 3 – for their support for this park for our neighborhood and the District.

-- This bill would transfer jurisdiction of a small, unpaved Right-Of-Way from the Department of Transportation to the Department of Parks and Recreation. It is a small stretch of forested land between Connecticut Avenue and Kalorama Circle.
As you can see from the photograph I have attached, this is a strip of green space on the ridge above Rock Creek, with a usable walking path down the middle. The private homes along the South side all have substantial fencing. On the North side, lovely open views of Rock Creek and the magnificent Taft Bridge on Connecticut Avenue. This green space is the natural boundary of our neighborhood and needs to be protected as a park.

-- Unlike other parkland acquisition projects, there would be no purchase cost to the City, for it is a simple transfer of jurisdiction. Now, it is an inconvenient responsibility for DDOT, and much more in keeping with the mission of DPR.

-- I have spoken to Mr. John Stokes of the Department of Parks and Recreation. My understanding is DPR is open to this change and knows from working with our neighborhood volunteers at Mitchell Park, that we are reliable partners and good stewards when given the opportunity to work together with DPR.

-- These trees and the opportunity for recreation bring health benefits to the city. A clean trail will lead to greater public use, and thereby, greater safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this Bill.
GOOD MORNING MR. CHAIRMAN. I AM WARNER SESSION, PRINCIPAL OF THE SESSION LAW.

I AM PLEASED AND HONORED TO TESTIFY IN SUPPORT OF BILL 20-432, THE CALVIN AND WILHELMINA ROLARK WAY DESIGNATION ACT OF 2013."

THIS IS VERY PERSONAL FOR ME BECAUSE IT WAS OVER 30 YEARS AGO THAT I STARTED MY PROFESSIONAL CAREER HERE IN THE WILSON BUILDING WORKING FOR WILHELMINA ROLARK WHO, AS YOU KNOW, WAS THEN THE COUNCILMEMBER FOR WARD 8.

I WAS FRESH OUT OF GEORGETOWN LAW SCHOOL AND MRS. ROLARK GAVE ME MY FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY MY SKILLS AND RECENTLY OBTAINED LEGAL EDUCATION. AT THE TIME I JOINED HER STAFF, SHE CHAired THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND I WAS PART OF HER PROFESSIONAL STAFF. WE HAD JURISDICTION OVER THE PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES - INCLUDING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND CORRECTIONS. I REMEMBER WORKING ON MRS. ROLARK’S BEHALF WITH SUCH NOTABLE AGENCY DIRECTORS AT THE TIME AS WALTER RIDLEY AT CORRECTIONS AND CHIEF ISAAC FULWOOD AT THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT. THIS WAS GREAT EXPOSURE FOR ME AND PROVIDED ME A FOUNDATION TO LAUNCH MY PROFESSIONAL CAREER.

MRS. ROLARK WAS A PIONEER AS A LEGISLATOR. SHE AUTHORED KEY BILLS ON BAIL REFORM AND ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING FOR NON-VIOLENT OFFENDERS, AS WELL AS CABLE LEGISLATION THAT CREATED DC CABLE, THE FIRST TV CABLE FRANCHISE IN THE DISTRICT.

IN ADDITION TO BEING A TERRIFIC LEGISLATOR, SHE WAS A FIERCE ADVOCATE FOR WARD 8 RESIDENTS, WHO EXPERIENCED THE HIGHEST RATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE DISTRICT AND WHO WERE MOST DEPENDENT ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE. SHE WAS CONSISTENTLY TENACIOUS IN PROMOTING HER CONSTITUENT’S INTERESTS.

OF COURSE, YOU COULD NOT WORK FOR MRS. ROLARK WITHOUT KNOWING CALVIN ROLARK. DR. ROLARK WAS LARGER THAN LIFE AND A TRUE ICON IN

MR. CHAIRMAN THAT CONCLUDES MY TESTIMONY.
Greetings Councilmember Mendelson and members of the Committee of the Whole. It is indeed a sincere pleasure to sit before you today to say thank you to you and to Mayor Vincent Gray for introducing Bill 20-432 that calls for approval of the symbolic designation of the 500 block of Foxhall Place, S.E. as Calvin and Wilhelmina Rolark Way.

First, let me say to those who are listening, there is more than one street named Foxhall in the District of Columbia. One is in the very exclusive area of Ward 3 in Northwest, which is called Foxhall Road. The other is another very exclusive street in Southeast called Foxhall Place. My father and stepmother were the proud homeowners of 524 Foxhall Place for more than 30 years. And when folks got their address confused, they were proud to remind them that they lived on Foxhall Place in Southeast in Ward 8.

Wilhelmina Jackson Rolark, my stepmother, was a native of Portsmouth, Virginia. She was a 1937 graduate of Howard University where she received her BA and master’s degrees in Political Science. She worked for the Treasury Department while attending Robert H Terrell Law School in Washington, DC in 1944. She practiced law in the District for more than 50 years and proudly served many of those years as secretary to the National Bar Association. She was also a
very active member of the Washington Bar Association. In an effort to address gender bias in
the legal profession, which she personally experienced, she founded the National Association of
Black Women Attorneys, which supported the careers of many African American women in the
legal profession and provided mentorships for young women entering the field of law. She
focused her career on civil rights and she won a landmark employment rights case that made
it’s way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Wilhelmina Rolark also served on this auspicious body as the D.C. City Council representative
for Ward 8 for 16 years. She chaired the committees on Employment and Economic
Development, Public Service and Consumer Affairs and Judiciary. She also served on the
Sentencing Guidelines Commission of the D.C. Superior Court. It was during her tenure on the
D.C. City Council that she oversaw the establishment of Cable Television in the District of
Columbia, and as chair of the Judiciary Committee, she fought for more police foot patrols and
greater protections for juvenile defendants. In addition, she introduced legislation that created
the D.C. Energy Office, the Bank Depository Act, and established stricter drug laws including
one that makes the sale of certain drug paraphernalia in non-tobacco stores illegal.
Unfortunately, with the laws already on the books, many neighborhoods are still fighting that
battle.

Councilmember Rolark was also responsible for naming two main streets in Ward 8, Martin
Luther King Jr Avenue and Malcolm X Avenue and she founded the Annual Martin Luther King
Holiday Parade, along with her husband, Dr. Calvin Rolark and Ralph Waldo “Petey” Green.

My father, Dr. Calvin W. Rolark, Sr., a native of Texarkana, Texas, was a community activist,
journalist and philanthropist. Before he established The Washington Informer, he was among a
group of local activists who established the Black United Front that worked along with the District’s elected Mayor Walter E. Washington to help calm and protect the citizens of the District, and local businesses, from the violence that ensued following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King in April, 1964. The group also fought against police brutality and for the end of the MPD’s discriminatory practices in the hiring and promotion of African American police officers.

Dr. Rolark established The Washington Informer in 1964, one of the leading African American and community newspapers in the Washington area, which I publish today, and he later went on to assist in the establishment of the United Black Fund in April 1969.

In order to help meet the unmet needs of District residents by providing support to local non-profit organizations, Dr. Rolark and UBF’s general counsel Attorney Wilhelmina Rolark had to fight the US Civil Service Commission for inclusion in the Combined Federal Campaign to solicit payroll deductions from federal employees. And they worked untiringly to establish a fundraising partnership with the United Givers Fund, now the United Way. Under Dr. Rolark’s leadership, millions of dollars were raised to assist hundreds of local and small organizations serving residents of all racial and ethnic backgrounds, throughout the metropolitan area.

Among them is RAP, Inc., a program established 40 years ago by Mr. Ron Clark that provides residential substance abuse treatment, HIV/AIDS care and other services to male and female District residents. I will be forever grateful to Ron Clark and the RAP Board of Directors for naming their facility at 1949 Fourth Street in Northeast after Dr. Calvin W. Rolark. RAP will mark its 40th anniversary this, Saturday, November 16 with a gala fundraiser to raise money for the expansion of the Calvin W. Rolark Center to assist more District residents who need help.
I could spend the rest of the afternoon listing the accomplishments of both of my parents, and, in turn, the accomplishments of thousands of mentees and godchildren and others, like Attorney Warner Sessions, who are not helping others because their lives were touched by these two great people. Isn’t that what life is all about? The Rolarks surely believed it and lived it.

I am proud to sum up my remarks with a piece from my stepmother’s obituary in the Washington Post that said, in the “1970s and 1980s, Mrs. Rolark and her late husband, Calvin R. Rolark, were one of the most recognizable power couples in the city, and they used that power to challenge the white establishment in pursuit of better jobs and services for black residents. Working as a team, they tackled the problems of poverty, crime and lack of privilege in the Southeast quadrant of the city.”...And let me add specifically, on Foxhall Place where I can confidently say they loved their neighbors with whom they worked hard to maintain a safe environment in the midst of an ever growing violent city, and they made sure the home they owned on Foxhall would remain a place for family members to continue to live in.

My father died suddenly on October 23, 1994 and my stepmother died following a yearlong illness on February 14 — Valentine’s Day — 2006.

I am honored to sit before you and several of Wilhelmina Rolark’s colleagues remaining on the council to say thank you and to Mayor Vincent Gray for introducing this bill and to humbly ask that you will favorably vote for the symbolic designation of Foxhall Place, Southeast, in Ward 8, Calvin and Wilhelmina Rolark Way.

Thank you.
BELMONT PARK DESIGNATION AND ESTABLISHMENT ACT of 2013

Good Morning, Council Chair Mendelson

I am David Bender, ANC 2D Chair and Secretary and Commissioner in ANC 2D01 (the Single Member District affected by Bill-B20-110). It is an honor for me to share with you the ANC’s support of this designation and establishment of Belmont Park. One of the interests of the ANC is to preserve green space which can be enjoyed and used by our residents. Should this stretch of land become a park, the usable green space in Sheridan-Kalorama would be enhanced.

An article in The Northwest Current, Wednesday, February 20, 2013 states, “Just south of (the) Taft Bridge is a spectacular, but short, forest pathway that yields wide views of the classical bridge...as well as Rock Creek and its parkway in the steep stream valley below. But the pathway, which stretches just one long block from Connecticut Avenue to Kalorama Circle, has been neglected. An unused right-of-way for a portion of Belmont Road, it was never paved and is now strewn with litter and downed limbs”.

For a number of years a group of Sheridan-Kalorama residents have worked with At-Large Council Member David Catania to create a park in this neglected unpaved right-of-way portion of Belmont Road attempting to have it transferred from the Department of Transportation to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

We are most appreciative of the support provided by Council Member Catania, who introduced The Belmont Park Designation and Establishment Act along with co-sponsors Jack Evans, Ward 2 and Mary Cheh, Ward 3. We strongly support the creation of this Park and urge all the Members of the City Council to vote in favor of establishing Belmont Park.

Action extracted from ANC Minutes:
ANC 2D
Minutes
October 21, 2013, 7:00PM
Our Lady Queen of the Americas
2200 California Street

7.2 Belmont Park: Over the past several years discussions have been held regarding the transfer of the unpaved stretch of Belmont Road (from Connecticut Ave. to Kalorama Circle) from DDOT to the Department of Parks and Recreation. City Council Chairman Mendelson will hold a public hearing on B20-110 (bill introduced by David Catania, Jack Evans and Mary Cheh) on November 14th at 11am in the Council Chamber. After discussion, Commissioner Lamar moved, and it was seconded, that ANC 2D strongly supports the transfer from the Department of Transportation to the Department of Parks and Recreation the portion of Belmont Road, which runs from Connecticut Ave to Kalorama Circle as described in B20-110. Approved

Respectively submitted
David R. Bender, PhD
ANC 2D, Chair/Secretary
November 14, 2013
November 11, 2013

Council Chair Mendelson
Co-Sponsors
Councilmembers Catania and Evans and Cheh

Thank you for holding this hearing on Bill 20-110
Belmont Park Designation and Establishment Act of 2013.

We at the Sheridan-Kalorama Historic Association (SKHA) enthusiastically support the
Belmont Park Designation and Establishment Act of 2013.

We think of our support this way--------Anytime we can offer to our DC residents a
respite from urban living to a retreat of woodsy beauty, we should.

Belmont Park is such a place.

It is walkable. It offers an escape from busy streets. It is woodsy. It is not paved and
should not be paved.

Belmont Park is bordered by Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District.
The young, middle age, elderly and their dogs love the gentle path for a stroll with forest
like trees and bushes.

It is not huge but it is special and it needs tender loving care. We are confident that a
transfer of responsibilities for Belmont Park from Department of Transportation to the
Department of Parks and Recreation would promote proper maintenance and care of
Belmont Park.

Your consideration and support of this bill will be very much appreciated by Sheridan-
Kalorama Historical Association.

Thank you.

Donna Hays, Vice President
donnasmithhays@earthlink.net
Good Morning, Council Chair Mendelson and Hello Councilman Catania, Councilman Evans and Councilwoman Cheh.

My name is Holly Sukenik. I am a member of the board of directors of Preserve Our Green Space in Sheridan-Kalorama and a resident of Sheridan-Kalorama. It is an honor for me to share with you POGS's support of this designation and establishment of Belmont Park.

Preserve Our Green Space in Sheridan Kalorama (POGS) is an incorporated non-profit organization.

Today we join other neighborhood groups in enthusiastic support of B20-110, which transfers responsibility for a small, unpaved, derelict parcel of Belmont Road from DDOT to the Department of Parks and Recreation. The parcel in question has been an eyesore for years, and, more worrying, an unsafe and unhealthy burden on the community. For example, immediately prior to the Chinese Embassy building project, it served as a dumping ground for unwanted household items and trash, and on occasion a venue for drinking and drugs.

Currently, the de-facto northern boundary of our neighborhood is Rock Creek Park. A distinctive part of the history of our neighborhood, Sheridan-Kalorama Historic District, is that it was the culmination of the “City Beautiful” movement and philosophy in Washington. Today you can see that in the design with all the green space built in. The park along the northern border is a key visual part of the setting, and to formalize that green space with a tidy trail between Connecticut Avenue and Kalorama Circle as a walking path would enhance the historic character of Sheridan-Kalorama. The distinctive, special character of so many different neighborhoods is one of the things that make Washington a terrific place to live and visit. We think enhancing the distinctive character of Sheridan-Kalorama – as a green enclave within an urban environment – enhances the mosaic of the District as a whole.
But this “paper road,” this “phantom park” is actually in a void without appropriate protection between the fenced off properties on Kalorama Road and the Rock Creek Park itself. As a Right Of Way, which is its status, there is always a threat of development, but there is a more realistic fact that DDOT is not the proper manager. As green space with no official roadway, it is a problem for DDOT to maintain. For the Department of Parks and Recreation, the management would complement the DPR existing functions.

As you know, our neighborhood is composed of enthusiastic supporters of green space. If you help by passing this legislation, keeping our neighborhood, and the City green, we will partner with DPR to build a small, green park space that will enhance the community.

Holly Sukenik
POGS, Board Member
Hello

This has process has been unbelievably frustrating for me. This alley on paper only which is my front door and as always been my front door. Starting out know one had seen anything like this before. Which meant that know one could tell me how to get this fixed. After being told to contact several different agencies no one still had answers. So I contacted my counsel man Jim Graham who was also given the run around and could not get a straight answer. So at his request I hired an attorney to assist in this matter. In which case is instructed that I hire an architect which I did. All fees which I have incurred. I took all the legal documents from when the house was brought in 1936. This clearly states in the deed that this 5 ft. alley is part of my property. And was asked was my roof a flat roof I stated yes and was told I could knock it down to sell house if I wanted to one of the many great answers I got from my government workers. Then I was told that they were nothing no one can do that I would have to do an alley closing. And this would correct the problem that was not fixed over 122 years ago I found out by doing the reach myself. The must disappointing part of it all my dream home that I was clear to close on January 9, 2013 release and has been sold. Do to the fact on January 21, 2013 I found out that this paper alley would have to be fixed in order to sell my home. I had incurred many fees and many attitudes from the government workers who act like they are doing me a favor for doing there job I asking that the alley please be closed so I can sell my home.
EXECUTIVE BRANCH TESTIMONY
BY THE
OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR
ON BILL NO. 20-439, “CLOSING OF A PUBLIC ALLEY IN SQUARE 150
S.O. 13-10218, ACT OF 2013

November 14, 2013

INTRODUCTION:

Good morning Chairman Mendelson and Committee Members. I am Roland Dreist, Surveyor of the District of Columbia. I appear before you today to present testimony on Bill 20-439. This bill would close a public alley in Square 150, bounded by Seaton Street, N.W., Florida Avenue, N.W., V Street N.W., and 17th Street, N.W., in Ward 1.

APPLICANT:

The applicant is Dionne Holiday.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this application is to allow for the elimination of an unimproved alley located to the east of the applicant’s property. A survey recorded in the Surveyor’s Office in Survey Book 155, Page 292 shows the building in 1951 as being constructed over the alley.

DESCRIPTION:

The portion of the 5-foot by 20-foot alley to be closed was created by a subdivision recorded in Subdivision Book 12, Page 40 on April 23, 1883. Square 150 lies within an original Square of the City of Washington.

TITLE:

The abutting owner has provided a notarized document giving up any rights to the alley should it be closed.
AREA AND ASSESSED VALUE:

The area of the portion of the public alley to be closed is 100 square feet. The Office of Tax and Revenue has indicated that the land’s market value as of January 1, 2013, which represents tax year 2014 is $327.00 per square foot average, for a total estimated value of $32,790.00.

AGENCIES:

The Executive Branch agencies have no objections to this closing.

UTILITIES:

The utility companies have no objection to this closing.

RETAIL TENANTS:

No retail tenants will be displaced as a result of this closing.

NCPC, ANC & ABUTTING PROPERTY OWNERS:

Pursuant to D.C. Official Code §9-202-02(5) Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 1C08 was notified of this application on June 14, 2013. To-date, we have not received comments from ANC 1C08. Any comments will be forwarded when received. Pursuant to D.C. Official Code §9-202-05, referral to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) is not required. The owner of the abutting lot has provided written support for this application.

This concludes my testimony. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today and welcome any comments or discussion regarding this matter. Thank you.
Memorandum

To: Members of the Council

From: Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

Date: February 6, 2013

Subject: Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Legislative Meeting on Tuesday, February 05, 2013. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Belmont Park Designation and Establishment Act of 2013", B20-0110

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmembers Catania, Evans and Cheh
CO-SPONSORED BY: Councilmembers Bowser, Wells and Grosso

The Chairman is referring this legislation to the Committee of the Whole.

Attachment

cc: General Counsel
    Budget Director
    Legislative Services
A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Councilmember Catania introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on

To designate the public right-of-way adjacent Lot 197, Square 2526 as Belmont Park, to establish Belmont Park as a public park, and to require the Mayor to transfer all functions and authority regarding Belmont Park to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Belmont Park Designation and Establishment Act of 2013".

Sec. 2. Belmont Park; designation and establishment.

(a) Pursuant to section 401 of the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01), the Council designates the public right-of-way west of Connecticut Avenue, N.W., at the Connecticut Avenue/Belmont Road, N.W., intersection, shown on the Surveyor's plat as adjacent to Lot 197, Square 2526, as "Belmont Park".
(b) The newly designated Belmont Park is established as a public park within the park system of the District of Columbia.

(c) Within 90 days of the effective date of this act, the Mayor shall transfer all the functions assigned and authority delegated to the District Department of Transportation or other agency, if any, with respect to the Belmont Park to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

Sec. 4. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.
Memorandum

To: Members of the Council
From: Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council
Date: September 19, 2013
Subject: Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Monday, September 16, 2013. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Calvin and Wilhelmina Rolark Way Designation Act of 2013", B20-0432

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor

The Chairman is referring this legislation to the Committee of the Whole.

Attachment

cc: General Counsel
    Budget Director
    Legislative Services
The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania, NW, Suite 504  
Washington, DC 20004  

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

Enclosed for consideration by the Council is the “Calvin and Wilhelmina Rolark Way Designation Act of 2013” to honor the lifetime of service and dedication of these outstanding Washingtonians by ceremonially designating the 500 block of Foxhall Place, S.E., in their honor.

Wilhelmina Jackson Rolark was born in the early 1900s in Truxton, a suburb of Portsmouth, Virginia. Rolark received a bachelor’s degree in 1936 and a master’s degree in 1938, both in political science, from Howard University. In 1944 she earned a bachelor of laws degree from the Terrell Law School in Washington, D.C. From 1977 to 1993, Wilhelmina Rolark served as Ward 8 Councilmember. Rolark improved the quality of life for residents in Ward 8 in the District. And, as the primary force behind the establishment of the National Association of Black Women Attorneys (NABWA) and its founding president, she helped to enhance the professional status of the black woman attorney.

Mrs. Rolark was married for 38-years to Dr. Calvin W. Rolark, a native of Texarkana, Texas, and a graduate of Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical College. Calvin Rolark founded and was president of the United Black Fund and was editor and publisher of the Washington Informer Newspaper. The Rolarks had two children, Denise Rolark Barnes and Calvin Rolark II. Calvin Rolark died in 1994, and Wilhelmina Rolark died in 2006.

I urge Council to take prompt and favorable action on this legislation.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Vincent C. Gray
A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chairman Phil Mendelson introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on

To symbolically designate the 500 block of Foxhall Place, SE as “Calvin and Wilhelmina Rolark Way.”

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Calvin and Wilhelmina Rolark Way Designation Act of 2013.”

Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401 and 403a of the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code §§ 9-204.01 and 9-204.03a) (“Act”), and notwithstanding sections 405 and 407 of the Act (D.C. Official Code §§ 9-204.05 and 9-204.07), the Council symbolically designates the 500 block of Foxhall Place, SE, in Ward 8, as “Calvin and Wilhelmina Rolark Way.”

Sec. 3. Transmittal.

The Secretary to the Council shall transmit a copy of this act, upon its effective date, to the District Department of Transportation.
Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

Sec. 5. Effective Date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the D.C. Register.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Lolita S. Alston
   Deputy Director
   Office of Legislative Support

FROM: Janet M. Robins
      Deputy Attorney General
      Legal Counsel Division

DATE: September 10, 2013

SUBJECT: Legal Sufficiency Review of Executive Draft Bill, the “Calvin and Wilhelmina Rolark Way Designation Act of 2013” (AE-13-676)

This is to Certify that this Office has reviewed the above-referenced executive draft bill and found it to be legally sufficient. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call me at 724-5524.

Janet M. Robins
Memorandum

To: Members of the Council

From: Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

Date: September 19, 2013

Subject: Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Monday, September 16, 2013. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.


INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor

The Chairman is referring this legislation to the Committee of the Whole.

Attachment

cc: General Counsel
    Budget Director
    Legislative Services
Vincent C. Gray
Mayor

SEP 16 2013
The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 504
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:


The applicant seeks to close this alley because her home was constructed on it over a hundred years ago.

Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 9-202.02(5), the application was referred to Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 1C 08 on June 14, 2013. To date the Office of the Surveyor has received no comments from the ANC. Any comments will be forwarded if received.

Pursuant to D.C. Official Code §§ 9-202.03 and 9-202.05 (2), referral to the National Capital Planning Commission is not required. Also as a result of to D.C. Official Code § 9-202.05 (2), no hearing is required.

The 5-foot by 20-foot alley to be closed was created by a subdivision recorded in Subdivision Book recorded in Subdivision Book 12, Page 40 on April 23, 1883, in the Office of the Surveyor.

Enclosed is a copy of the plat for recording this closing along with a copy of the application file and draft legislation.

Sincerely,

Vincent C. Gray
Mayor
Chairman Phil Mendelson, at the request of the Mayor, introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee to ________________________________.

To order the closing of a public alley in Square 150, bounded by Seaton Street, Northwest Washington, D.C., in Ward 1.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act be cited as the “Closing of a Public Alley in Square 150, S.O.13-10218, Act of 2013”.

Sec. 2. Pursuant to Section 201 of the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983; (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code §9-202-01), the Council of the District of Columbia finds the public alley in Square 150, as shown by the hatch-marks on the Surveyor’s plat in S.O. 13-10218, unnecessary for alley purposes and orders it closed with title to the land to vest as shown on the Surveyor’s plat.

Sec. 3. The Secretary of the Council shall transmit a copy of this act, upon its effective date, to the Office of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia.
Sec. 4. The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813, D.C. Official Code §1-206-02(c)(3)).

Sec. 5. This act shall take effect upon its approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), and a 30-day period of congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) and publication in the District of Columbia Register.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Lolita Alston  
Director  
Office of Legislative Support

FROM: Alan Bergstein  
Section Chief  
Land Use and Public Work

SUBJECT: Closing of a Public Alley in Square 150, S.O. 13-10218, Act of 2013

DATE: September 13, 2013

This Section has reviewed a proposed bill originally entitled the “Closing of a Paper Alley in Square 150, S.O. 13-10218, Act of 2013” and the associated file received from the Surveyor. The short title was changed to substitute the phrase “public alley” for “paper alley” and the section requiring the satisfaction of conditions stated in the Surveyor’s Office file was eliminated because the file contained no objections to the closing.

The attached proposed legislation is legally sufficient. Therefore, pursuant to the request of the Surveyor, we are forwarding the legislative package to you for review by the Mayor and submission to the Council. If you have any questions concerning the legal sufficiency of the legislation, please contact me at 442-9777. Questions concerning the S.O. file should be directed to the Surveyor, Roland F. Dreist Jr. at 442-4699.

Attachments

cc: Roland f Dreist Jr., Surveyor  
Janet Robins, Deputy  
Legal Counsel Division

AHB  
(400693)
ALLEY OWNERSHIP STATUS STATEMENT

Re: Proposed Closing of a Paper Alley in Square 150 (S.O. 13-10218)

1. The alley to be closed lies within an original square of the City of Washington.

2. The 5-foot by 20-foot wide paper alley was created by a subdivision recorded in Subdivision Book 12, Page 40 on April 23, 1883. The alley is unimproved.

July 24, 2013

Roland F. Dreist, Jr.
D.C. Surveyor
Memorandum

To: Members of the Council

From: Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

Date: October 15, 2013

Subject: Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Thursday, October 10, 2013. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Annie’s Way Designation Act of 2013", B20-0525

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor

The Chairman is referring this legislation to the Committee of The Whole.

Attachment

cc: General Counsel
    Budget Director
    Legislative Services
A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To symbolically designate the 1600 block of Church Street, NW, between 17th Street, NW and Stead Park as Annie’s Way to honor the historic legacy of Annie’s Paramount Steak House in the Dupont Circle community of Ward 2.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Annie’s Way Designation Act of 2013”.

Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401 and 403a of the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code §§ 9-204.01 and 9-204.03(a)) (“Act”), the Council symbolically designates the 1600 block of Church Street, NW, between 17th Street, NW and Stead Park, in Ward 2 as “Annie’s Way”.

Sec. 3. Transmittal.

The Secretary to the Council shall transmit a copy of this act, after it becomes effective, to the District Department of Transportation.

Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code §1-206.02(c)(3)).
MEMORANDUM

TO: Lolita S. Alston
    Director
    Office of Legislative Support

FROM: Janet M. Robins
      Deputy Attorney General
      Legal Counsel Division

DATE: October 8, 2013

SUBJECT: Annie’s Way Designation Act of 2013
         (AE-13-677)

This is to Certify that this Office has reviewed the legislation entitled the “Annie’s Way Designation Act of 2013”, and found it to be legally unobjectionable. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 724-5524.

Janet M. Robins