

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

DRAFT

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**TO:** All Councilmembers

**FROM:** Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Committee of the Whole

**DATE:** October 20, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Report on Bill 21-340, the “Athletic Field Naming and Sponsorship Amendment Act of 2015”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 21-340, the “Athletic Field Naming and Sponsorship Amendment Act of 2015” was referred, reports favorably thereon and recommends approval by the Council.

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**I. BACKGROUND AND NEED**

On September 16, 2015, Bill 21-340, the “Athletic Field Naming and Sponsorship Amendment Act of 2015,” was introduced by Chairman Phil Mendelson and Councilmembers Charles Allen, Jack Evans, and Mary Cheh to permit the Mayor to name a District athletic field after a living current or former professional athlete through adoption or sponsorship by an organization.

Presently, the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982 grants the Council and the Mayor the authority to approve proposed designations or changes in the naming of any public space in the District of Columbia.<sup>1</sup> However, this authority contains several restrictions including prohibiting the naming of a public space after any living person.<sup>2</sup> As such,

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<sup>1</sup> D.C. Code § 9-201.01 et seq.

<sup>2</sup> *Id* at § 9-204.05.

public spaces can only be renamed after individuals that have been deceased for two years or more, with exceptions for federal and local politicians. The Committee of the Whole, which has jurisdiction over legislation to rename public spaces, has been adherent to the restrictions place on renaming, especially with respect to the requirement that individuals be deceased for at least two years before the space is named in their honor. In most cases, such a restriction ensures a time for reflection and processing of emotions before any posthumous dedication. Restrictions on designations for living individuals is equally important to eliminate any perception of *quid pro quo* between the government and an individual, or raising questions behind the motivations for a designation.

However, the Committee became aware earlier this year of a philanthropic effort to revitalize District athletic fields – specifically baseball diamonds – by the Washington Nationals baseball club’s non-profit wing. Under the proposed arrangement, the non-profit, with additional funds contributed by individual players, would pay to revitalize local Department of Parks and Recreation Fields, and attract prominence to the fields by including the individual player’s name on the field. The Committee believes such an arrangement is of great benefit to the District and would not violate the intent of the restrictions currently imposed on naming spaces for living individuals. As Greg McCarthy, Vice President for Community Engagement with the Washington Nationals said in his testimony before the Committee, such an arrangement is distinct from the traditional naming of a field to honor a historic figure in that it gives current players a platform to give back to the District and connect with the young people who watch them play. The legislation the Committee is recommending for approval would set up a mechanism for these specific types of namings. Bill 21-340 would allow the Nationals foundation to enter into a specific agreement with the Department of Parks and Recreation to sponsor athletic fields that would then bear the name of one of a living player. The legislation would allow such an arrangement specifically for namings done in conjunction with sponsorship of the field where the Mayor and the foundation have entered into an agreement which would detail the terms of the agreement, and requires that such a naming be on a temporary basis as described in the agreement.

According Mr. McCarthy, the field improvements envisioned would vary depending on the severity of needs, from a simple touching up of a field to a full rebuild of a field with new infrastructure, such as scoreboards or bleachers. The Nationals have set a floor of \$100,000 minimum for improvements to a field and plans to renovate at least one field a year, with more ambitious improvements as we approach the 2018 MLB All-Star Game which will be played in the District. The plans also call for formulating agreements that would address longevity of the renaming – likely ten years, with options to renew – and the effect of changes to the Nationals’

While other public athletic fields in the District have been named after living people, such as Cardozo High School’s Maury Wills Field in Ward 1, such renamings required Council action to approve by act, overriding the law’s prohibition on namings after living individuals.<sup>3</sup> Other athletic facilities have been renamed through Council action after deceased individuals. Instead of requiring affirmative Council approval of the individual baseball field namings envisioned under the arrangement with the Nationals foundation, Bill 21-340 would empower the Mayor to effectuate the namings for this narrow class of sponsored facilities with clear conditions.

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<sup>3</sup> Vol. 55 D.C. Register Pg. 10850 (Dec. 19, 2008).

Several jurisdictions around the country have similar partnerships with their professional sports teams, including St. Louis, Missouri with the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team<sup>4</sup> and Phoenix, Arizona with the Arizona Diamondbacks baseball team.<sup>5</sup> These partnerships go back several years and have resulted in the refurbishment and construction of 19 fields in St. Louis and 34 fields in Phoenix over the course of the partnership. These sponsorship opportunities have been seen as a great success in the two cities, increasing interest in the sport of baseball while providing a safe and maintained field to play. Even if players are traded away from their teams, or retire from the sport, they still return to their eponymous field periodically to great fanfare and attention.

One of the greatest impediments to interest in sports is a lack of adequate playing facilities. The Nationals have a history of philanthropic activities in the District over the course of their ten year career here, including the Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy, the Washington Nationals Dream Foundation, and the sponsorship of the DC Public Library Summer Reading Program.<sup>6</sup> Using the “star-power” of their talented players, the Washington Nationals have brought children out to their baseball camps, funded a Diabetes Care Complex at the Children’s National Health System, and have attracted scores of children to the public library.<sup>7</sup> It is not a stretch to imagine the benefits if the Nationals, or any other professional sports franchise, were permitted to sponsor the refurbishment of an athletic facility.

Allowing the Mayor and the Department of Parks and Recreation to enter into an agreement with a sponsoring organization for the refurbishment of a field appears to be beneficial to the District for the many reasons listed above. Thus the Committee of the Whole recommends the approval of Bill 21-340, the “Athletic Field naming and Sponsorship Amendment Act of 2015.”

## II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- September 16, 2015 Bill 21-340, the “Athletic Field Naming and Sponsorship Amendment Act” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson and Councilmembers Allen, Cheh, and Evans.
- September 25, 2015 Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 21-340 is published in the *DC Register*.
- September 25, 2015 Notice of Public Hearing on Bill 21-340 is published in the *DC Register*.
- October 13, 2015 A Public Hearing is held on Bill 21-340 by the Committee of the Whole.

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<sup>4</sup>*Community – Youth Baseball Fields*, THE ST. LOUIS CARDINALS, [http://stlouis.cardinals.mlb.com/stl/community/youth\\_fields.jsp](http://stlouis.cardinals.mlb.com/stl/community/youth_fields.jsp) (last visited Oct. 16, 2015).

<sup>5</sup> *Community – Field Building Program*, THE ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS, <http://arizona.diamondbacks.mlb.com/ari/community/diamondsback.jsp> (last visited Oct. 16, 2015).

<sup>6</sup> *Summer Reading for Everyone*, DC PUBLIC LIBRARY, <http://dclibrary.org/summerreading> (last visited Oct. 16, 2015).

<sup>7</sup> *Nats Player Strasburg Visits DC Library for Reading Program*, WUSA9, July 22, 2015, <http://www.wusa9.com/story/news/local/dc/2015/07/18/nationals-player-strasburg-anacostia-library/30347249/> (last visited Oct. 16, 2015).

October 20, 2015      The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 21-340.

### III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Keith Anderson, Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, testified on behalf of the Executive in support of Bill 21-340. Director Anderson testified that DPR was supportive of the amendments to the law allowing for organizations to sponsor an athletic field and temporarily name the field after a living person. Currently, the law does not allow for public spaces, including athletic fields, to be named in honor of a living person or any person that has been dead for less than two years, with few exceptions. Director Anderson emphasized that allowing for the naming of a field in honor of a living athlete would inspire children who look up to these athletes as role-models to perform remarkably, both on and off the field.

### IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee did not receive comments on Bill 21-340 from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission.

### V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on Bill 21-340 on Tuesday, October 13, 2015. The testimony summarized below is from that hearing. Copies of written testimony are attached to this report.

*Gregory McCarthy, Vice President of Community Engagement, Washington Nationals* testified on behalf of the Washington Nationals Major League Baseball team in support of the bill emphasizing that similar arrangements have been successful in other jurisdictions with sports teams. He also reiterated the support for the community provided by the Nationals and their desire to continue the positive partnerships with the District, and especially the District's youth.

*Michael Augustus Lee, Public Witness*, testified in favor of the legislation and noted his support for athletics in general.

*Keith Anderson, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation*, testified that the Executive supports Bill 21-340 and suggested additional amendments to expand the types of fields which may be named under this legislation. A summary of his testimony is above in section III.

The Committee received no other testimony or comments in opposition to Bill 21-340.

### VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Bill 21-340 amends the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, codified at D.C. Official Code § 9-201, to allow for the temporary naming of athletic fields for

current or former professional sports players in conjunction with a sponsorship agreement containing a substantial financial contribution from an organization. The bill also amends the Recreation Act of 1994, codified at § 10-304, to clarify that non-profit organizations may sponsor or adopt a DPR facility.

## VII. FISCAL IMPACT

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2015 through fiscal year 2018 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation. The costs to the Department of Parks and Recreation are minimal as the sponsoring organization would take full financial responsibility for the improvement of adopted athletic fields.

## VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of the Bill 21-340.
<u>Section 2</u>	Amends Section 405 of The Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Code § 9-201.01 et seq) to allow the Mayor to temporarily rename fields in conjunction with a sponsorship arrangement of the field
<u>Section 3</u>	Amends Section 5(a) of the Recreation Act of 1994 (D.C. Law 10-246, D.C. Code § 10-304 to clarify that a sponsorship or adoption of an athletic field may be done by a non-profit.
<u>Section 4</u>	Directs the Chairman of the Council to transmit a copy of this act to the Mayor and the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation.
<u>Section 5</u>	Adopts the Fiscal Impact Statement
<u>Section 5</u>	Establishes the effective date by stating the standard 30-day congressional review language.

## IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

**X. ATTACHMENTS**

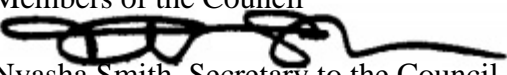
1. Bill 21-340 as introduced.
2. Written testimony.
3. Fiscal Impact Statement.
4. Legal Sufficiency Review.
5. Comparative Print.
6. Committee Print for Bill 21-340.

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.**  
**Washington D.C. 20004**

Memorandum

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To : Members of the Council

From :   
Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

Date : September 17, 2015

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Wednesday, September 16, 2015. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.


TITLE: "Athletic Field Naming and Sponsorship Amendment Act of 2015", B21-0340

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson and Councilmembers Evans, Allen, and Cheh

The Chairman is referring this legislation to the Committee of the Whole with comments from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment.

Attachment

cc: General Counsel  
Budget Director  
Legislative Services



Councilmember Charles Allen



Chairman Phil Mendelson



Councilmember Mary Cheh



Councilmember Jack Evans

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chairman Mendelson introduced the following bill which was \_\_\_\_\_.

To allow for the temporary designation of sponsored Department of Parks and Recreation facilities and to clarify that non-profit organizations may sponsor facilities.

BE IT ENACTED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Athletic Field Naming and Sponsorship Amendment Act of 2015."

Sec 2. The Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code § 9-201.01 *et seq.*) is amended as follows:

(a) Section 405 is amended by striking the phrase "No public space" and inserting the phrase "Except as otherwise provided under this act, no public space" in its place.

(b) A new section 410 is added to read as follows:

"Sec. 410. Naming of sponsored recreation facilities.

"(a) The Mayor may name a Department of Parks and Recreation athletic field that is adopted or sponsored, pursuant to Section 5 of the Recreation Act of 1994 (D.C. Law 10-246; D.C. Code § 10-304), for an individual, provided the naming is:

"(1) detailed in an agreement between the Mayor and the entity adopting or sponsoring the field;



39           “(2) in conjunction with a substantial financial adoption or sponsorship of the  
40 field;

41           “(3) for a current or former professional sports player; and

42           “(4) understood not to be a permanent naming of the field, if the naming is  
43 pursuant to this section.

44           “(b) The logo of the entity sponsoring or adopting a field may be displayed on signage at  
45 the facility, provided that the logo is less prominent than the name of the individual for which the  
46 field is named, and that it is consistent with the requirements of the agreement required by this  
47 section.

48           Sec 3. Section 5(a) of the Recreation Act of 1994 (D.C. Law 10-246, D.C. Code § 10-  
49 304) is amended by replacing the sentence “Individuals, associations, corporations, partnerships,  
50 neighborhood and civic groups or other governmental entities may adopt or sponsor  
51 Departmental programs, sites, or operations.” and with the sentence “Individuals, associations,  
52 corporations, partnerships, neighborhood and civic groups, non-profit organizations, or other  
53 governmental entities may adopt or sponsor Departmental programs, sites, facilities, fields, or  
54 operations.”.

55           Sec. 4. Transmittal.

56           The Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this act,  
57 upon its effective date, to the Mayor and the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

58           Sec. 5. Fiscal impact statement.

59           The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal  
60 impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act,  
61 approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-106.02(c)(3)).

62           Sec. 6. Effective date.

63           This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
64 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
65 provided in section 602(c)(2) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
66 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(2)), and publication in the District of  
67 Columbia Register.

Athletic Field Naming and Sponsorship Amendment Act of 2015

Hearing before the  
Committee on the Whole  
Council of the District of Columbia  
October 13, 2015

Testimony submitted by

Gregory McCarthy, Vice President for Community Engagement  
Washington Nationals Baseball Club

Chairman Mendelson and members of the Council, thank you very much for the opportunity to offer comments on B-21-340, the Athletic Field Naming and Sponsorship Amendment Act of 2015. The Washington Nationals commend you for this welcome and promising bill which we believe has great potential to provide additional platforms for our city's young people to identify with the virtues associated with professional sports, in general, and baseball, in particular.

One of the principal values of our team is giving back to the community. Since the team transitioned to local ownership nine years ago, we have undertaken numerous initiatives to ensure that professional baseball adds to the quality of life in communities within the District of Columbia. We have focused primarily, but not exclusively, on young people in the city, especially from underserved neighborhoods.

Our crown jewel is the Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy which was constructed with generous support from the city. In just 18 months of operations, hundreds of third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders from Wards 7 and 8 have participated in out-of-school programming which includes academic enrichment, life skills development, and baseball and softball instruction. The facility consists of three beautiful fields and an 18,000 square foot academic/athletic building. The Academy is quickly becoming a hub for youth baseball activities in the city, hosting more than 400 baseball games and related events in the last 12 months. In short, we are very proud of what the Academy is accomplishing.

In addition, the Washington Nationals Dream Foundation made possible the opening of the Washington Nationals Diabetes Care Complex at Children's National Health System, providing hope and support to young people learning to live with the disease. The team has also sponsored the DC Public Library Summer Reading Program for two years, during which participation has more than doubled to 28,000 young people. We also started a DC Little League Jersey Program this year, whereby almost 5,000 young people in all eight District Little

Leagues and the DC Parks and Recreation Rookie League received Washington Nationals inspired jerseys and caps, saving the District's leagues considerable costs and in the words of leaders from several leagues, "uniting players from all the wards." Just last month we launched NatsPrep, in coordination with the Hospitality and Tourism Career Academies at Wilson, Bell, and Ballou Senior High Schools. Students and faculty at all three schools are part of in-depth training on sports management and hospitality taught by Nationals executives.

Our community partners have told us consistently that beyond the educational impact, financial support, and health and wellness benefits of our programming, participants very much value – and are inspired by – association with our players and the team as a whole. Visits by our players to the Academy, neighborhood library branches, youth baseball events, and schools have generated considerable excitement and interest in the programs we sponsor with educational and civic organizations. For young people especially, the connection with baseball and the positive lessons associated with it – teamwork, practice, dedication, healthy living, and critical thinking – are intensified by affiliation with a player.

We've had considerable dialogue with youth baseball leaders across the city about impediments to expand participation in youth leagues. The most significant unmet, they say, is lack of access to quality fields. Based on this assessment and with the aforementioned work as a foundation, the Nationals now want to devote more resources to refurbishing youth baseball and softball fields across the city. Based on our experience to date, we know that the more we can involve our players in this endeavor, the response and excitement from young people will be maximized.

Your bill will make it possible for our team and/or foundation to seek the financial and programmatic support from our players and corporations to improve fields in the District. We are excited about the opportunity whereby a player's name would be affixed to a field for a specified period of time subject to terms of an agreement with the city. We view this as very distinct from a traditional "naming" of a field in honor of a prominent player such as Maury Wills or Mamie "Peanut" Johnson. Your bill is more about giving our players a platform to give back to the

city and connect with the young people who are watching them play. As your bill stipulates, this affiliation would be in the context of financial support for the refurbishment. It's about the player honoring the city, not the reverse.

We've looked at similar initiatives in other cities, including Phoenix and St. Louis, where players have lent their support (and names) to field refurbishment. In those cities, some of the players have retired or gone on to other teams, but their association with a particular field remains as a testament to their role in promoting the love of the sport and advancing youth baseball, in general, while they were playing in that city. Indeed, players' interest and connection to the field transcends the time playing in the city.

Baseball can be a very positive means to instill the values we care about in young people. We think your bill will allow our team and our players to advance this goal and be role models for our children. Obviously, the bill is not baseball-specific, and while, of course, we cannot speak for other professional teams, I think that the same dynamic would apply to other sports teams in the city as they connect with young people.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2015

THE COUNCILMEMBER PHIL MENDOLSON SIR., THANK YOU FOR HAVING THIS  
CRUCIALLY AND CRITICALLY IMPORTANT HEARING SIR.,., YOU NEVER  
KNOW SIR, YOU JUST MIGHT BE "SAVING SOME ONES LIFE"!!!!

SENIOR CITIZEN HOMELESS LADIES.,.,  
SENIOR CITIZEN HOMELESS GENTLEMEN.,.,  
HOMELESS GENTLEMEN IN WHEEL CHAIRS.,.,  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE IS A VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM, IN THE HOMELESS  
COMMUNITY., AS I AM SURE YOU ALREADY KNOW!!

8,000 SOLDIERS HAVE LOST THEIR LIFE IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN.,.,  
I HAVE HEARD THAT 10 THRU 15 VETERANS ARE COMMITTING SUICIDE  
EACH DAY.,., THIS HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR ABOUT 10 YEARS.,.,  
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY, THIS COMMITTEE CAN NOT WRITE THE WORD  
VETERAN ON A PIECE OF PAPER!! I DO NOT UNDERSTAND THIS!!  
I AM THE FOUNDER OF VETERANS OF AMERICA ASSOCIATION, A GROWING  
VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SOLDIERS, IN AFGHANISTAN AND AROUND THE WORLD!!

PLEASE FORGIVE ME, FOR NOT NOTING, THE 4,000 YOUNG PEOPLE, WHO  
ARE HOMELESS, AS I HAVE BEEN TOLD. AT MY LEVEL, IT IS HARD TO  
GET THE CORRECT NUMBERS

THIS IS THE 8TH WEEK OF THE SCHOOL YEAR., HOPEFULLY EVERYONE  
WILL GRADUATE!! WHY DOES THE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR, IN THE FRONT  
ENTRANCE, HAVE THE WRONG INFORMATION, FRONT ENTRANCE WILSON BLDG.!!

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**Department of Parks and Recreation**



Athletic Field Naming  
And  
Sponsorship Amendment Act of 2015  
Bill 21-340

Testimony of  
Keith A. Anderson  
Director

The Honorable Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Committee of the Whole  
Council of the District of Columbia

October 13, 2015  
Council Chamber  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004



## Introduction

Good morning Chairman Mendelson and members of the Committee. I am Keith A. Anderson, the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). I am pleased to testify before you today on Bill 21-340, the Athletic Field Naming and Sponsorship Amendment Act of 2015. DPR supports the amendments to the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982 and the Recreation Act of 1994; and would like to make a few recommendations.

As we understand it, this bill permits the Mayor to name a DPR athletic field for a current or former professional athlete, provided that the naming is:

- (1) Detailed in an agreement between the Mayor and entity adopting or sponsoring the field;
- (2) Accompanied by a substantial financial adoption or sponsorship; and,
- (3) Understood to be a temporary renaming.

The bill also specifies certain requirements regarding the size and placement of a logo and the written name of the individual for which it is named, and clarifies that non-profit organization may be sponsors.

Currently, public spaces in the District (including athletic fields) cannot be named in honor of a living person, or person deceased less than 2 years, with some exceptions. This legislation will make that possible to name a field for a living or recently deceased professional athlete.

DPR supports this bill because engaging youth is a large part of our work at DPR and this legislation gives us the opportunity to provide our youth with facilities named for inspiring professional role models.

This past summer, DPR renamed Rose Park tennis courts in honor of homegrown heroes Margaret and Roumania Peters—from Georgetown, who broke through racial and gender barriers by wowing crowds with their spectacular doubles tennis play in the 1930s, 40s, and 50s. It was a great honor to rename the courts after two women who dared to dream through a sport they dearly loved and to collaborate with Council for support of that endeavor.

Today, we are here again to collaborate with you. We envision continuing this tradition of naming athletic facilities after individuals who broke through barriers and overcame all odds to bring success and honor to a sport and to DC. But now, with this new legislation, we envision combining past accomplishments of great athletes along with current leaders in athletics.

Our children should have the opportunity to look-up-to current professional athletes who provide entertainment and inspire them to set their goals high and work hard. We believe seeing the names of their role models in “lights” will dare them to dream big and to also achieve great accomplishments on the fields.

At this time, we would like to recommend adding the naming of DPR tennis and basketball courts, and pools, in addition to athletic fields.

## **Conclusion**

That concludes my testimony today on the Athletic Field Naming and Sponsorship Amendment Act of 2015. I want to thank you again for the opportunity to testify and I look forward to answering any questions you might have.

1. D.C. Official Code, Title 9, Subtitle I, Chapter 2, Unit A, Subchapter IV, Part A

\* \* \*

§ 9-204.05. Use of living persons' names prohibited; use of deceased persons' names restricted.

**Except as otherwise provided under this act, No** public space in the District shall be named in honor of any living person, or in honor of any person who has been deceased less than 2 years, unless the deceased person was a President or Vice President of the United States, a United States Senator or Representative, a Mayor of the District of Columbia, or a member of the Council of the District of Columbia.

\* \* \*

**§ 9-204.10 [Sec. 410.] Naming of sponsored recreation facilities.**

**(a) Notwithstanding section 401 of this act, the Mayor may name in honor of a person a Department of Parks and Recreation athletic field that is adopted or sponsored, pursuant to Section 5 of the Recreation Act of 1994 (D.C. Law 10-246; D.C. Code § 10-304), provided, that:**

**(1) the naming is detailed in an agreement between the Mayor and the entity adopting or sponsoring the field;**

**(2) the agreement requires the financial adoption or sponsorship of the field;**

**(3) the name is that of a current or former professional sports player; and**

**(4) the naming is not permanent.**

**(b) The District may display the logo of the entity sponsoring or adopting a field on signage at the field, provided that the display of the logo is less prominent than the name of the person for whom the field is named, and that the display is consistent with the terms of the agreement required by section (a)(1).**

Bill 21-340, "Athletic Field Naming and Sponsorship Amendment Act of 2015"  
Committee of the Whole  
Draft Comparative Print

2. D.C. Official Code, Title 10, Subtitle I, Chapter 3

§ 10-304. Park adoptions and sponsorships.

(a) Individuals, associations, corporations, partnerships, neighborhood and civic groups, **non-profit organizations**, or other governmental entities may adopt or sponsor Departmental programs, sites, or operations. The form of such adoption or sponsorship may be made by a donation of funds to the Fund, services, equipment, or any other asset with intrinsic value. The Department may form partnerships with any of the above stated groups to accomplish a stated goal or mission of the Department.

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**  
2 Committee of the Whole  
3 October 20, 2015  
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10 A BILL  
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12 21-340  
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15  
16 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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21 To allow for the temporary designation of sponsored Department of Parks and Recreation facilities  
22 and to clarify that non-profit organizations may sponsor facilities.  
23

24 BE IT ENACTED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
25 act may be cited as the “Athletic Field Naming and Sponsorship Amendment Act of 2015.”  
26

27 Sec 2. The Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982 (D.C. Law 4-  
28 201; D.C. Official Code § 9-201.01 *et seq.*) is amended as follows:

29 (a) Section 405 is amended by striking the phrase “No public space” and inserting the  
30 phrase “Except as otherwise provided under this act, no public space” in its place.

31 (b) A new section 410 is added to read as follows:

32 “Sec. 410. Naming of sponsored recreation facilities.

33 “(a) Notwithstanding section 401 of this act, the Mayor may name in honor of a person a  
34 Department of Parks and Recreation athletic field that is adopted or sponsored, pursuant to Section  
35 5 of the Recreation Act of 1994 (D.C. Law 10-246; D.C. Code § 10-304), provided, that:

36 “(1) the naming is detailed in an agreement between the Mayor and the entity  
37 adopting or sponsoring the field;

38 “(2) the agreement requires the financial adoption or sponsorship of the field;

39 “(3) the name is that of a current or former professional sports player; and

40 “(4) the naming is not permanent.

41 “(b) The District may display the logo of the entity sponsoring or adopting a field on  
42 signage at the field, provided that the display of the logo is less prominent than the name of the  
43 person for whom the field is named, and that the display is consistent with the terms of the  
44 agreement required by section (a)(1).

45 Sec 3. Section 5(a) of the Recreation Act of 1994 (D.C. Law 10-246, D.C. Code § 10-304)  
46 is amended by replacing the sentence “Individuals, associations, corporations, partnerships,  
47 neighborhood and civic groups or other governmental entities may adopt or sponsor Departmental  
48 programs, sites, or operations.” with the sentence “Individuals, associations, corporations,  
49 partnerships, neighborhood and civic groups, non-profit organizations, or other governmental  
50 entities may adopt or sponsor Departmental programs, sites, facilities, fields, or operations.”.

51 Sec. 4. Transmittal.

52 The Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this act,  
53 upon its effective date, to the Mayor and the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

54 Sec. 5. Fiscal impact statement.

55 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal  
56 impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act,  
57 approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-106.02(c)(3)).

58 Sec. 6. Effective date.

59 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto  
60 by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional

61 review as provided in section 602(c)(2) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved  
62 December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(2)), and publication in the  
63 District of Columbia Register.