

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

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

DRAFT

TO: All Councilmembers

FROM: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole

DATE: January 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Report on Bill 23-327, the “James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation Act of 2020”

The Committee of the Whole, to which Bill 23-327, the “James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation Act of 2020” was referred, reports favorably thereon, with technical amendments, and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On June 4, 2019, Bill 23-327, the “James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation Act of 2019,” was introduced by Councilmembers Trayon White, Evans, McDuffie, Todd, Silverman, Bonds, Grosso, Gray, and R. White, to officially designate the amphitheater at Oxon Run Park located at 13th Street and Mississippi Avenue, S.E., in Ward 8, as the James as James E. Bunn Amphitheater. An official naming of a public space typically enables installation of signage.

James Edward Bunn was born on March 1, 1942 in Baltimore, Maryland to James “Jimmy” Bunn and Ethel Rose Bunn. When Mr. Bunn was three years old, he moved in with his grandmother in Battleboro, North Carolina while his parents worked to support their family, and he spent the rest of his childhood years there. After graduating from high school, Mr. Bunn joined the United States Air Force, serving for four years before being honorably discharged in 1964 after sustaining an injury at which point, he came to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in the District to recuperate. He fell in love with the nation’s capital, eventually deciding to call the District his home. On one of his several visits to North Carolina, he met his wife, Linda Cherry and they were married in 1971. They went on to have three children: James II, Sheila, and Rodney.

In 1970, Mr. Bunn purchased what became known as the “Bunn Building” at 3127 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, S.E., in Congress Heights, thereby officially declaring Ward 8 as his home. With his entrepreneurial spirit, Mr. Bunn became a masterful barber. He opened his own barber shop, a barber and beauty supply store, a grocery store, and a carry out at the Bunn Building. Not wanting to keep his keen business sense to himself, Mr. Bunn recruited many people in the neighborhood, particularly seniors from Ballou High School, to work in his shops and teach them how to be skilled employees.

After settling in Ward 8, Mr. Bunn was quick to notice the numerous disparities and inequalities present in the community. He decided to change them, becoming a well-known advocate and activist for neighborhoods in Wards 7 and 8. People in the community knew that he could get things done and many in the neighborhood depended on his business acumen or his extensive list of contacts to bring much-needed and deserved services, amenities, and development to neighborhoods east of the river.

Mr. Bunn’s selfless activism prepared him well for leadership roles, including as Chairman of the Board and later Executive Director of the Far Southeast Community Organization (FSECO), Executive Director of the Ward 8 Business Council, board member of the Anacostia Economic Development Corporation, ANC Commissioner for 8D02 for three terms, and member of the Anacostia Coordinating Council for over 15 years. At the time of his death, Mr. Bunn was an appointed member of the DC Retirement Board and Vice Chair of the Board’s Strategic Planning Committee, serving as a trustee since being appointed by former Council Chairman John A. Wilson in 1991. At the time of his death, Mr. Bunn had been nominated for a position on the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority Board of Directors (PR 20-185).

Mr. Bunn passed away on August 1, 2013 at the age of 71, leaving behind an enduring legacy in his community and throughout the District of Columbia.

Legal Background

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 *et seq.*) (“Act”) establishes procedures for closing streets and alleys, opening new streets and alleys, and the naming of public spaces. Specifically, the Act authorizes the Council to designate or change the name of any public space in the District of Columbia.¹ Public spaces include “any public street, alley, circle, bridge, building, park, other public place or property owned by or under the administrative control or jurisdiction of the District of Columbia.”²

The Act establishes a notice requirement for the official designation of public spaces; at least 30 days prior to the scheduled public hearing, the initiator of the proposed designation shall submit a copy of the legislation for review and comment to each Advisory Neighborhood

¹ See D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01 *et seq.*

² D.C. Official Code § 9-204.11(2)(A).

Commission (“ANC”) in which the public space is located. Regarding Bill 23-327, ANC 5E was notified of the proposed name on October 28, 2019. On November 4, 2019, the Committee received a letter from ANC 8E expressing support for the James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation.

The Act also promulgates requirements that the Mayor must meet prior to consideration of a public space designation by the Council. First, the Mayor shall provide the Council with comments on the proposed designation submitted by any District agency with jurisdiction over the public space to be designated.³ DPR, which will have jurisdiction over the park when completed, attended the November 26, 2019 hearing on Bill 23-327 and submitted comments as part of its testimony, thus meeting this requirement. Second, prior to consideration of a designation by the Council, the Mayor shall provide to the Council a surveyor’s plat showing the public space to be designated, including any adjacent and abutting squares to the designation.⁴ The Office of the Surveyor provided the Council with a plat of the designation prior to the hearing of the Committee of the Whole and subsequently provided an updated plat reflecting the amphitheater itself rather than the whole square. That updated plat is attached to this report.

In addition, the Act requires that “No public space in the District of Columbia shall be given the same name as that given another public space in the District.” In 2015, the Council adopted the “James Bunn Way Designation Act of 2015” which symbolically designated the 3100 block of Esther Place, S.E. as James Bunn Way. That designation predated the 2016 amendments to the Act, and there are other cases of pre-2016 designations that designated more than one public space for the same person. The designation also received support from other Ward 8 ANCs. In this case, given those limited precedents, and because Bill 23-327 provides for an official designation where the previous designation was symbolic, the Committee recommends waiving this requirement based on the individual circumstances.

After the legislation becomes law and all conditions required by the Council and the Act have been satisfied, the Mayor will install signage denoting the public space name.⁵ The signage shall conform to the policies of the agency with jurisdiction over the public space, in this case DPR.⁶ Additionally, the Surveyor of the District of Columbia shall record a copy of the act and the Surveyor’s plat in the Office of the Surveyor.⁷

Officially designating this amphitheater as James E. Bunn Amphitheater will honor Mr. Bunn’s dedication to service in the District. Thus, the Committee of the Whole recommends the approval of Bill 23-327, the “James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation Act of 2019.”

³ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.22(b).

⁴ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.22(c)(1)-(3).

⁵ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.24(b).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ D.C. Official Code § 9-204.24(c).

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- June 4, 2019 Bill 22-327, the “James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation Act of 2019” is co-introduced at a legislative meeting by Councilmember Gray, Bonds, Evans, Grosso, McDuffie, Silverman, Todd, R. White, and T. White and is referred to the Committee of the Whole.
- June 14, 2019 Notice of Intent to Act on Bill 23-327 is published in the *DC Register*.
- October 25, 2019 Notice of Public Hearing on Bill 23-327 is published in the *DC Register*.
- November 26, 2019 A Public Hearing is held on Bill 23-327 by the Committee of the Whole.
- January 17, 2020 The Committee of the Whole marks up Bill 23-327.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Ella Faulkner, Deputy Director of Administrative Services, Department of Parks and Recreation, testified that the Executive supports the proposed designation. Her testimony is attached as well as summarized below.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8E submitted a letter on behalf of the entire ANC expressing community support for the proposed naming by a vote of 3-0-1. ANC 8A adopted a resolution at its November 21, 2019 meeting supporting the proposed naming with a quorum present by unanimous vote. ANC 8C submitted a letter on behalf of the entire ANC expressing community support for the proposed naming by a unanimous vote. ANC 8D adopted a resolution at its November 21, 2019 meeting supporting the proposed naming with a quorum present by majority vote.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on several bills including Bill 23-327 on Thursday, November 26, 2019. The testimony summarized below pertains to Bill 23-327.

Copies of written testimony are attached to this report.

Sheila Bunn, Daughter of James Bunn, testified in support of the proposed designation and described Mr. Bunn’s integral role in bringing the second largest collection of Cherry Blossom trees to the District in Oxon Run Park near the amphitheater.

Charlie Whitaker, Public Witness, testified in support of the proposed designation.

Cornelia Harris, Public Witness, testified in support of the proposed designation.

Ella Faulkner, Deputy Director for Administrative Services, Department of Parks and Recreation, testified that the Executive supports the designation.

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Bill 23-327.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Bill 23-327 has no impact on existing law. D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01 authorizes the Council to designate (i.e. name) any public space, including facilities.⁸ Further, the Act generally provides that no public space shall be named in honor of any living person or in honor of any person who has been deceased less than two years.⁹ Mr. Bunn passed away in 2013.

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2023 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation. DPR testified that fabrication of signage for the new park can be absorbed, as noted in the Fiscal Impact Statement (attached).

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of Bill 23-327.
<u>Section 2</u>	Officially designates the amphitheater located in Oxon Run Park as the James E. Bunn Amphitheater.
<u>Section 3</u>	Adopts the Fiscal Impact Statement.
<u>Section 4</u>	Establishes the effective date by stating the standard 30-day congressional review language.

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

⁸ Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201).

⁹ See D.C. Code § 9-204.05.

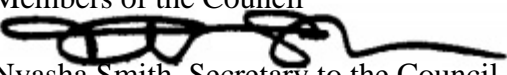
X. ATTACHMENTS

1. Bill 23-327 as introduced.
2. Written Testimony.
3. Correspondence from ANCs.
4. Surveyor's Plat.
5. Fiscal Impact Statement for Bill 23-327.
6. Legal Sufficiency Determination for Bill 23-327.
7. Committee Print for Bill 23-327.

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

Memorandum

To : Members of the Council

From : 
Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

Date : June 05, 2019

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Legislative Meeting on Tuesday, June 4, 2019. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation Act of 2019", B23-0327

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmembers T. White, Evans, McDuffie, Todd, Silverman, Bonds, Grosso, Gray, and R. White

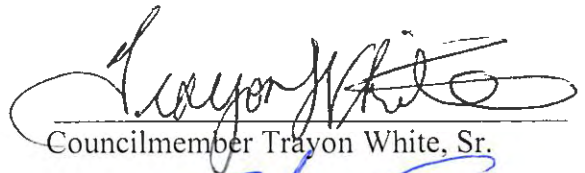
The Chairman is referring this legislation to the Committee of the Whole.

Attachment

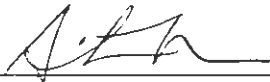
cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services

1 

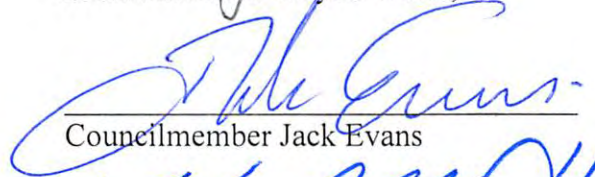
2
3 Councilmember Elissa Silverman



Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

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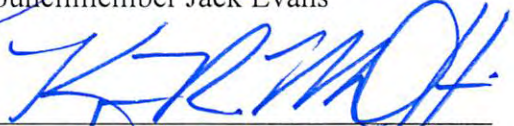
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7 Councilmember Anita Bonds



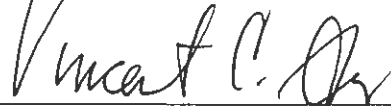
Councilmember Jack Evans

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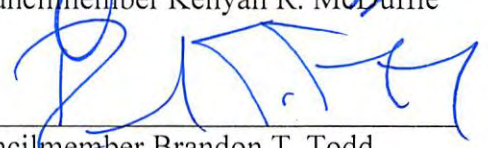
10
11 Councilmember David Grosso



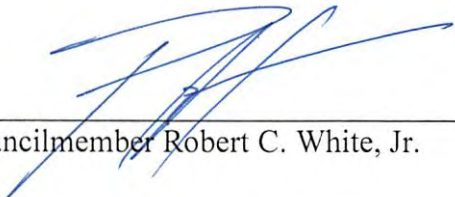
Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

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13 

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15 Councilmember Vincent C. Gray



Councilmember Brandon T. Todd

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20 Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

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23
24 A BILL

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26
27 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

28
29
30 To designate the Amphitheater at Oxon Run Park, located at 13th Street and Mississippi Avenue,
31 S.E. in Ward 8, as the James E. Bunn Amphitheater.

32
33 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
34 act may be cited as the "James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation Act of 2019".

35 Sec. 2 Pursuant to sections 401 of the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition Procedures
36 Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code § 9-204.01), the
37 Council designates the Amphitheater at Oxon Run Park, located at 13th Street and Mississippi
38 Avenue, S.E. in Ward 8, as the "James E. Bunn Amphitheater".

39 Sec. 3. Transmittal.

39 The Council shall transmit a copy of this act, upon its effective date, to the Director of the
40 Department of Parks and Recreation.

41 Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

42 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact
43 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved
44 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; Official Code § 1-301.47a).

45 Sec. 5. Effective date.

46 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
47 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
48 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24,
49 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
50 Columbia Register.

**Testimony of Sheila E. Bunn in Support of Bill 23-327,
the "James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation Act of 2019"**

Good Morning Chairman Mendelson and other members of the Committee. I am Sheila Bunn, daughter of the late James E. Bunn. I am here to testify in support of Bill 23-327, the "James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation Act of 2019," introduced on June 4, 2019 by Ward 8 Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

Before I begin my testimony, I'd like to thank Councilmember White for introducing this bill, the Friends of Oxon Run Park, specifically, Mr. Absalom Jordan and Brenda Richardson, for their continued work with the park and honoring of my father with this tribute, and the DC Building Industry Association for recently upgrading and beautifying the amphitheater and surrounding area. Additionally, the Bunn family is grateful to ANCs 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, and 8E for passing resolutions in support of this bill.

James E. Bunn unexpectedly departed this life on Thursday, August 1, 2013, in Southwest, Washington, DC. He was born on March 1, 1942 to the late James "Jimmie" Bunn and Ethel Mills Bunn in Baltimore, Maryland. Educated in North Carolina, James admirably joined the US Air Force upon graduation from high school. James sacrificed four years of his young life to serve his country until he was honorably discharged in 1964 as a result of a medical injury. While receiving treatment for his injury at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, James fell in love with the District of Columbia and decided to plant roots in the Nation's Capital. Soon thereafter, his first child, Dionne Byers, was born.

Although James would call the District his new home, he never lost touch with his North Carolina roots, traveling frequently to the Tar Heel State. Good fate would place Linda Cherry in North Carolina for a weekend visit to cross paths with James. Their love blossomed into marriage and they became one in 1971. From this precious union, three children were born, Sheila, James II, and Rodney Bunn.

The year before, in 1970, James made Ward 8 his home and he set his sights on purchasing what is now the Bunn Building. James always had an entrepreneurial spirit and that translated into a long history of business endeavors in both the District and North Carolina. After the military, he decided that barbering was his next career choice. Subsequently, James became a licensed master barber and eventually opened and operated his own beauty and barber supply store. Over the years, his keen business sense also motivated him to operate a grocery store and carryout, along with a barber shop in the heart of Congress Heights.

Bunn – as many affectionately called him – quickly recognized and sought to resolve the disparities in his beloved Ward 8 community. He became a well-known advocate for Ward 8 residents and the good news about his commitment to bringing services, business and economic development east of the Anacostia River was spread across the city. Bunn's selfless activism propelled him into many leadership roles.

As Chairman of the Board of the Far Southeast Community Organization (FSECO), Bunn highlighted the need for affordable housing and homeownership in Ward 8. And because of his level of commitment, Bunn was later named Executive Director of FSECO. Even as he focused on the lack of affordable housing, Bunn still had his eyes on improving the business climate in Ward 8. From 2007 to 2010, he served as the Executive Director of the Ward 8 Business Council, working with Ward 8 businesses to get bonded and obtain the proper certifications in order to better position themselves for economic and business opportunities. The Ward 8 Business Council eventually folded into the Ward 8 Contractors Business Council, and Bunn continued, as chairman, to serve as an advocate and voice for Ward 8 businesses and CBEs. In addition, he shared his time and talents with the Anacostia Economic Development Corporation as a board member and was a member of the Anacostia Coordinating Council for 15-plus years.

Because he also had his ear to the ground to hear neighbors' concerns, the Bellevue community elected Bunn as an ANC Commissioner. Bunn so believed in helping fellow businessmen, that in 2009 he founded Congress Heights Main Streets (CHMS). As Chairman of the Board, Bunn worked to retain and expand existing businesses and recruit new businesses to set up shop along the Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue corridor from 4th Street to Milwaukee Place, SE. He was determined to position the organization as a vehicle for creating a thriving economic center on the King corridor.

The impending redevelopment of the west and east campuses at St. Elizabeths promised to spark an economic revitalization and renaissance in Ward 8. James worked closely with the US Department of Homeland Security as a community liaison to resolve any issues surrounding the federal government's consolidation of one of its largest agencies at the historic St. Elizabeths campus. God would have Bunn live to see the fruit of his labors with the opening of the first federal building east of the Anacostia River a few days prior to his death. Bunn also worked tirelessly to ensure that his community was a safe place to live and that residents had a good and cooperative relationship with the police. During his four-year tenure as president of the 7th District Citizens Advisory Council, Bunn provided a forum for dialogue for the community to share its ideas and concerns about crime, violence and other public safety issues.

At the time of his passing, James was a Mayor-appointed Trustee of the District of Columbia Retirement Board (DCRB) and served as Vice Chairman of the Board's Strategic Planning Committee. He had been a DCRB Trustee over the years since he was appointed to the Board in 1991 by John A. Wilson, the late Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia. He was also set to be sworn in as an alternate member of the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority Board.

Whatever you called him – Mr. Bunn, Bunn, James or Jim – everyone knew that this champion for Ward 8 and dedicated advocate for the underserved residents of the District of Columbia got things done! He knew the right people to call to solve any problem. Thus, it is fitting that the amphitheater in Oxon Run Park, home of the second largest cherry blossom tree grove in DC, which he helped to cultivate, bear his name. Chairman Mendelson, I urge you and the entire Council to pass Bill 23-327, the “James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation Act of 2019.” Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN PHIL MENDELSON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

PUBLIC HEARING

Bill 23-327, James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation Act of 2019

**Tuesday, November 26, 2019, 11:30 a.m.
Room 412, John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004**

Good Morning, Chairman Mendelson and staff. My name is Charlie Whitaker and I am testifying on behalf of the James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation Act of 2019. Mr. James Bunn was not only a father, grandfather, husband, activist and a friend, Mr. James Bunn was a pillar of our community. Mr. James Bunn had a vision that Ward 8 would be as nice as every part of the District of Columbia. Mr. Bunn fought up until his passing to ensure that this vision happened for the residents of Ward 8. Mr. Bunn was appointed by Mr. Barry as the Co-chair of the Ward 8 Park and Green Space Committee, along with Ab Jordan who was also his Co-chair. Mr. Bunn was adamant about preserving green space in Ward 8, although he was friendly with the developers, he was still eco-friendly. His vision was to preserve Oxon Run Park to ensure that it will be enjoyed by generations to come. This is a wonderful opportunity to continue Mr. Bunn's legacy in that he loved Ward 8 as much as he loved his own family.

Finally, considering all his work in all the Parks in Ward 8, we consider it an honor for the Amphitheater to be named after Mr. James E. Bunn.

Thank You,

Mr. Charlie Whitaker

**CHAIRMAN PHIL MENDELSON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC HEARING**

on

Bill 23-68, Bishop Sherman S. Howard Way Designation Act of 2019

Bill 23-88, Downs Way Designation Act of 2019

Bill 23-104, Tingey Square Designation Act of 2019

Bill 23-172, Alethia Tanner Park Designation Act of 2019

Bill 23-264, Woody Ward Recreation Center Designation Act of 2019

Bill 23-327, James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation Act of 2019

Bill 23-366, Zaire Kelly Park Designation Act of 2019

Bill 23-449, Kappa Alpha Psi Way Designation Act of 2019

Bill 23-455, Rev. Roy Settles Way Designation Act of 2019

Good afternoon Chairperson Mendelson and the other council members. My name is Cornelia Harris. I am here today in support of Bill 23-327, James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation Act of 2019. Mr. Bunn and I were neighbors for almost 40 years. He was always available to help anyone. He was a husband, father, neighbor, business owner, activist and overall a man of the community. He sought to help everyone become involved and concerned with community affairs. His sons and my sons were friends. He served as a mentor to my sons and other youth of the community. I think that naming the amphitheater located in Oxon Run Park at 13th Street and Mississippi Avenue, SE, will serve as an inspiration to all of the Ward 8 residents and others throughout the city. Again, I support the naming of the amphitheatre for James E. Bunn. Thank you very much for giving me this time to share my support for Bill 23-327.

Testimony of Brenda Lee Richardson
"James Bunn Amphitheatre Designation Act 2019"

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

My name is Brenda Lee Richardson. I am a resident of Ward 8. I am strongly supportive of this bill to name the amphitheatre in Oxon Run Park after James Bunn. Mr. Bunn was a champion of Ward 8. Councilmember Marion Barry appointed him as the Co-Chair of the Ward 8 Parks and Greenspace Committee along with Ab Jordan. Mr. Bunn worked tirelessly on this Committee to ensure that green space in the Ward is preserve. In light of the fact that Oxon Run Park is the largest park in the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation's inventory, Mr. Bunn wanted to ensure that the park was protected so that generations of children and adults would be able to use the park for years to come.

Mr. Bunn was also the Chair of Congress Heights Main Streets and it was through his efforts that his team helped to plant the legacy Cherry Blossom trees that not only bloom on the tidal basin but in scenic Ward 8 in Oxon Run Park. He made a commitment to water those trees so that we, the people of Ward 8 could enjoy them in our own backyard. He was an honorable man of immense integrity and environmental saavy. He understood the significance of having a prominent green footprint in Ward 8 that was off limits to developers. It was an honor to work with him and I applaud the foundation that he laid has an environmentalist.

Thank you.



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 8E
1310 Southern Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20032
Phone: (202) 359-3517

November 4, 2019

Letter of Support – James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation Act of 2019

Dear DC Council,

As ANC 8E Commissioners, we fully support the “James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation act of 2019” to honor James Edward Bunn, who many affectionately called “Bunn”. We choose to honor Bunn because of the long lasting legacy he created since arriving to the District in 1964, Bunn’s contributions to SouthEast DC are evident in the vibrancy in our community today. A military man of the US Air Force, Bunn committed himself to a life of service. Some of his leadership experience includes being Chairman and Executive Director of the FSECO and Ward 8 Business Council, fighting to prepare Ward 8 for a prosperous future. Having passed on in 2013, Bunn is survived by his children Dionne, Sheila, James II and Rodney. ANC 8E would like to show our appreciation and gratitude by writing this letter to support the designation of the Oxon Run Park’s Amphitheater as the “James E. Bunn Amphitheater”, so we can be reminded of the achievements of our heroes.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kendall Simmons, ANC 8E Chairman

Dr. Adeoye Owolewa, ANC 8E secretary



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8A

Anacostia, Fairlawn, Hillsdale, and Sheridan

Resolution in Support of B23-0327 - James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation Act of 2019

WHEREAS, James Bunn was a well-known advocate for Ward 8 residents and businesses, and pushed to bring needed services and economic development East of the River; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bunn's entrepreneurial spirit translated into a long history of business endeavors in the District, including advocating for Ward 8 businesses and Certified Business Enterprises (CBEs); and

WHEREAS, from 2007 to 2010, Mr. Bunn served as the Executive Director of the Ward 8 Business Council where he helped businesses become certified and bonded in order to position themselves for economic and business opportunities; and

WHEREAS, as Chairman of the Board of the Far Southeast Community Organization (FSECO), Mr. Bunn highlighted the need for affordable housing and homeownership in Ward 8; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Mr. Bunn founded Congress Heights Main Streets (CHMS). As Chairman of the Board, Mr. Bunn worked to retain and expand existing businesses and recruit new businesses to the Congress Heights business corridor; and

WHEREAS, during his four-year tenure as President of the 7th District Citizens Advisory Council, Mr. Bunn provided a safe forum for residents of the community to share concerns about crime, violence, and other public safety issues; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bunn served on many community boards in Ward 8, including the Anacostia Economic Development Corporation and was a 15-year member of the Anacostia Coordinating Council; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bunn called the Bellevue neighborhood home and served as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner where he represented that community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8A joins other Ward 8 leaders and community organizations in fully supporting **B23-0327** - James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation Act of 2019, currently before the Committee of the Whole in the Council of the District of Columbia.

This Resolution passed by a **Unanimous** vote at a duly noticed public meeting of ANC 8A on Tuesday, November 5, 2019, at which a quorum was present.

Mr. Troy Donté Prestwood
Chairman

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8A



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8C

November 7, 2019

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C., 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

At ANC 8C's properly noticed November 2019 public meeting with a quorum present, ANC 8C unanimously voted to support B23-037, the "James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation Act of 2019." The bill designates the Amphitheater at Oxon Run Park, located at 13th Street and Mississippi Avenue, SE as the James E. Bunn Amphitheater.

Mr. Bunn was a dedicated leader and advocate for Ward 8. He ran the Congress Heights Main Streets, the Ward 8 Business Council, and he also owned the Bunn building along Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue. Mr. Bunn advocated for Ward 8 and is beloved for his devotion to his community.

Mr. Chairman, B23-037 will honor Mr. Bunn with the amphitheater designation that will commemorate Mr. Bunn's rich legacy for generations to come. Mr. Bunn loved his community and his family, and his family and community love him. And this will be the perfect way for the community to show that love. As such, ANC 8C fully supports B23-037, the James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation Act of 2019.

Respectfully,

Mike Austin
Chairman, ANC 8C



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 8D**

**Resolution 2019-07
A Resolution in Support of Bill 23-0327 the
"James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation Act of 2019"**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8D, pursuant to the authority provided under DC Law, wishes to advise the Council of the District of Columbia of its support for Bill 23-0327. This Commission finds that:

1. Councilman Marion S. Barry created the Ward 8 Parks and Green Space Committee to insure that parks and green spaces in Ward 8 would have in place a conservation mechanism which would insure that residents of the Ward could utilize our parks and green spaces mindful of our responsibility to insure that the fauna and flora of the parks would be preserved; and
2. That James "Jim" Bunn would be a Co-Chair of the Parks and Green Space Committee; and
3. That "Jim" Bunn was instrumental in establishing the Friends of Oxon Run as the organization which would be charged with the responsibility of insuring that the dream of Councilman Barry would be realized, and
4. Oxon Run was gifted, from the National Cherry Blossom Festival Committee, the highest number of legacy Cherry Blossom trees outside of the Tidal Basin, and Jim Bunn, through his hard work and dedication, helped the Friends of Oxon Run in support of the maintenance of those trees, and
5. Jim Bunn brought together partners with DPR and Friends of Oxon Run, such as GSA, to support programs in Oxon Run that benefited the entire Ward 8 community,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVE THAT ANC 8D urges all members of the Council of the District of Columbia to support Bill 23-237 in recognition of the contribution that James E. Bunn made to the Oxon Run Park

Adopted by ANC 8D at its duly noticed meeting on November 21, 2019, with a quorum present, by a majority vote of the Commissioners present and voting.

Chair: Olivia Henderson

Secretary: Patricia Cannon

NAMING OF AMPHITHEATER

JAMES E. BUNN AMPHITHEATER

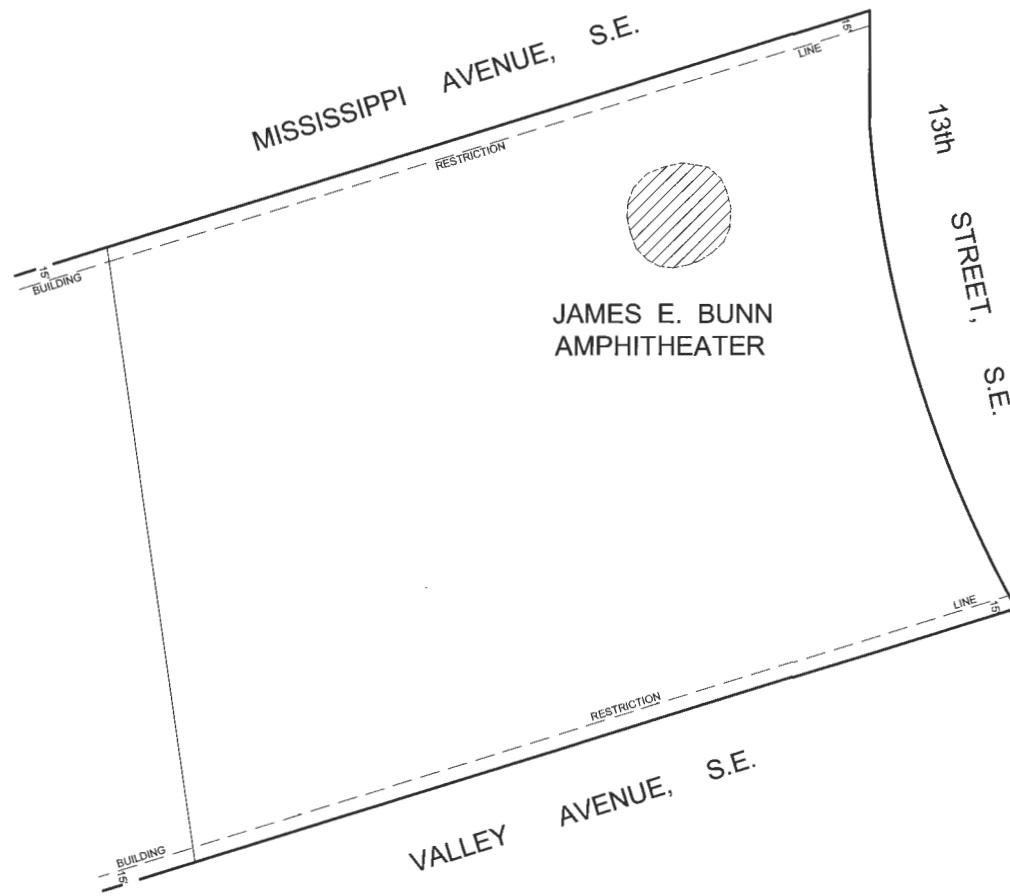
SQUARE 5932

PURSUANT TO D.C. LAW _____ EFFECTIVE _____,
 THE AREA SHOWN THUS:  IS HEREBY DESIGNATED AS
 "JAMES E. BUNN AMPHITHEATER".

OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR, D.C.
 _____, 2019

I CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAT IS CORRECT AND IS RECORDED.

 SURVEYOR, D.C.



SURVEYOR'S OFFICE, D.C.

Made for: B23-0327
 Drawn by: A.S. Checked by: _____
 Record and computations by: B. MYERS
 Recorded at: _____
 Recorded in Book: _____ Page: _____ SR-20-0000
 Scale: 1 inch = 80 feet File No. 19-11111

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 **Committee of the Whole**
3 **January 21, 2020**

4
5 A BILL

6
7
8 23-327
9

10
11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
12
13 _____
14

15 To officially designate the amphitheater at Oxon Run Park, located at 13th Street, S.E. and
16 Mississippi Avenue, S.E., as the James E. Bunn Amphitheater.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
18 act may be cited as the “James E. Bunn Amphitheater Designation Act of 2020”.

19 Sec. 2. Pursuant to sections 401 and 422 of the Street and Alley Closing and Acquisition
20 Procedures Act of 1982, effective March 10, 1983 (D.C. Law 4-201; D.C. Official Code §§ 9-
21 204.01 and 9-204.22) (“Act”), and notwithstanding section 404 of the Act (D.C. Official Code §
22 9-204.04), the Council officially designates the amphitheater at Oxon Run Park, located at 13th
23 Street, S.E. and Mississippi Avenue, S.E., as the “James E. Bunn Amphitheater”.

24 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

25 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
26 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
27 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

28 Sec. 4. Effective date.

29 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
30 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
31 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
32 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code §1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
33 Columbia Register.