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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

3

PUBLIC HEARING

4

BEFORE THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON

5

PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Monday, May 11, 1998
10:12 a.m.

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BILL NO. 980227 - An ordinance Renaming the Cobbs
Creek Skate House in the Park to "The Laura Sims
Ice Rink in Cobbs Creek Park."

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PRESENT: COUNCILWOMAN DONNA REED MILLER, Chair
COUNCILWOMAN JANNIE BLACKWELL
COUNCILWOMAN HAPPY FERNANDEZ
COUNCILMAN FRANK RIZZO

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1 COMM. ON PARKS, REC., CULTURAL AFFAIRS - BILL 980227

2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Good morning.

4 This is Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller, the Chair
5 of this committee. This is a public hearing of
6 the City Council Special Committee on Parks,
7 Recreation and Cultural Affairs to consider Bill
8 No. 980227.

9 In attendance this morning, for purpose
10 of a quorum, are Councilman Longstreth,
11 Councilman, Councilwoman Fernandez, and
12 Councilwoman Blackwell.

13 Will the clerk please read the title of
14 the bill.

15 Bill No. 980227, Renaming the Cobbs
16 Creek Skate House in the Park to "The Laura Sims
17 Ice Rink in Cobbs Creek Park."

18 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you.

19 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: Madame
20 Chairwoman, may I be excused from this meeting and
21 be counted as voting aye on the approval by the
22 committee of -- I can't find the number -- Bill
23 980227.

24 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Yes.

25 COUNCILMAN LONGSTRETH: Thank you.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN FERNANDEZ: Is that all
3 the amendments? I'm teasing.

4 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay, thank you.
5 Is there anyone here to testify for or
6 against this bill?

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Can I take the
8 witness stand?

9 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Sure.
10 Councilwoman Blackwell is going to testify.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Good morning.

12 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Good morning.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I would like
14 to thank the Chairwoman for the opportunity to
15 wear another hat and testify on behalf of Bill No.
16 980227.

17 Many, many years ago, my predecessor,
18 Councilman Lucien Blackwell, met a woman just
19 after he became Councilman. He met her in 1976.
20 And she told him that Charles Durham -- the late
21 Charles Durham, a former Councilman, had promised
22 her a rink.

23 And thereafter, she started and she
24 told him -- she used to call him when he was still
25 a labor leader on the waterfront under the bridge

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2 at 5 o'clock. And she all but berated him about
3 this rink. So, naturally, he finally heard her.
4 There were many, many struggles over the years.

5 The other rinks were built, the Rizzo
6 Rink was built, and others rinks were built, and
7 Cobbs Creek still wasn't done. Needless to say,
8 that is all history. The rink was finally built.
9 The Flyers called it the best in the region, and
10 everyone has been very, very pleased about it.

11 Unfortunately, Miss Sims became ill
12 recently and, unfortunately, passed away. And
13 since this was really her dream, she and her
14 husband, who's still alive, although very ill, ran
15 the rink as if it were their own.

16 They did everything from soup to nuts.
17 They kept it clean, they had problems with schools
18 in the area, they had outreach programs with the
19 community, and they were just wonderful.

20 And the community would be honored if
21 this could be named -- if the name could be
22 changed to be named for her because it was her
23 dream, her baby. And whenever we think of skating
24 in West Philadelphia, Miss Sims, who said children
25 in West Philadelphia deserve to skate too, we'll

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2 also think of her.

3 So I certainly ask if the Chair would
4 consider this and the committee would consider a
5 suspension of the rules, we would be most
6 grateful.

7 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay, thank you.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you.

9 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Does any
10 committee members have any questions of
11 Councilwoman Blackwell?

12 (No questions.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Thank you,
14 Councilwoman.

15 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Thank you,
16 Madame Chair.

17 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Is there anyone
18 else here to testify for or against this bill?

19 (No response.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: I know we have
21 some people that were expected, but we're just
22 going to --

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Yes, Madame
24 Chair. I don't know what happened. We just
25 called them -- Reverend Dr. Joseph Patterson from

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2 Hickman Temple. We had Betty Reavis, the
3 President of Walnut Hill Community Association.
4 We had Pat Evans, the President of SOCA, which
5 means "Support Our Community Association."

6 So I don't know what happened. I
7 talked with Pat Evans as recently as yesterday,
8 and then my staff person tells me there was some
9 problem with the mail.

10 But the committee can be assured that
11 the entire community absolutely supports this
12 bill.

13 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: Okay. Thank you,
14 Councilwoman.

15 Seeing that there's no one else left to
16 testify for or against this bill, this concludes
17 the public hearing on Bill No. 980227.

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19 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: We will now move
20 into our public meeting.

21 The Chair will recognizes Councilwoman
22 Blackwell for a motion.

23 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: Madame Chair,
24 I move that Bill No. 980227 be reported out of
25 committee with a favorable recommendation, and

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2 that the rules be suspended so as to permit first
3 reading at our next session of Council.

4 (Duly seconded.)

5 COUNCILWOMAN MILLER: All in favor
6 signify by, saying aye.

7 Opposed?

8 The motion is carried.

9 This committee will report Bill No.
10 980227 out of committee with a favorable
11 recommendation and request rules suspension so as
12 to permit first reading at our next regularly
13 scheduled Council session.

14 This concludes the public public
15 meeting. I thank everyone for coming.

16 (Adjourned at 10:17 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing
proceedings of the Council of the City of
Philadelphia of Monday, May 11, 1998. Were
reported and accurately by me, and that this is a
correct transcript of same.

RE: SPECIAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE
ON PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
BILL NO. 980227

_____,
JOSEPHINE CARDILLO, RPR