

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON PARKS, RECREATION
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, November 26, 2019
2:12 p.m.

PRESENT:
COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS, CHAIR
COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR.
COUNCILWOMAN CHERELLE L. PARKER
COUNCILMAN AL TAUBENBERGER

BILLS 190824 and 190829

- - -

1 11/26/19 - PARKS - BILLS 190824 & 190829

2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
3 afternoon. This hearing is called to
4 order. This is the public hearing of the
5 City Council Committee on Parks,
6 Recreation and Cultural Affairs, and the
7 purpose of this public hearing is to hear
8 Bill No. 190824 and Bill No. 190829.

9 I want to recognize the
10 presence of a quorum of Committee
11 members, and those in attendance are
12 Councilwoman Cherelle Parker, Councilman
13 Al Taubenberger, and Councilman Curtis
14 Jones, along with myself, Councilwoman
15 Cindy Bass.

16 And if we can have the Clerk
17 now read the title of the bill.

18 THE CLERK: Bill No. 190824,
19 renaming and designating the property
20 commonly referred to as Mill Creek Park,
21 located at 4615 Fairmount Avenue, as the
22 "Lucien E. Blackwell Park" in the City of
23 Philadelphia.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And if we
25 could have the Clerk call the first panel

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2 to testify.

3 THE CLERK: Kathryn Ott Lovell.

4 (Witness approached witness

5 table.)

6 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good

7 afternoon.

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:

9 Good afternoon, Chairwoman Bass.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Please

11 state your name for the record and begin

12 with your testimony.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:

14 Aparna Palantino, Deputy Commissioner of

15 Parks and Recreation.

16 Good afternoon, Chairwoman Bass

17 and members of the Committee on Parks,

18 Recreation and Cultural Affairs. I'm

19 here today to testify in support of Bill

20 No. 190824, an ordinance renaming and

21 designating the property commonly

22 referred to as Mill Creek Park, located

23 at 4615 Fairmount Avenue, as the "Lucien

24 E. Blackwell Park" in the City of

25 Philadelphia.

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The legacy of Mr. Lucien Blackwell is very well known in these Chambers and throughout the City. He served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1973 to 1975 and then went on to serve as a Philadelphia Councilman for the Third District, holding the office from 1975 to 1991. During his time on Council, he earned the nickname "Lucien the Solution" for his unrelenting attention to the needs of his constituents in West and Southwest Philadelphia. Mr. Blackwell also served as United States Congressman from 1991 to 1995. Throughout his trailblazing political career, he was respected and revered for his tireless advocacy for his constituents.

Renaming this beloved park in the Mill Creek section of Philadelphia will recognize Mr. Blackwell's life and dedication to public service.

Today I appear before you to offer support of Philadelphia Parks and

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2 Recreation for this legislation and
3 respectfully ask that City Council
4 approve Bill No. 190824.

5 Thank you to the bill sponsor,
6 Councilperson Jannie Blackwell, who
7 continues to esteem her late husband's
8 life and legacy.

9 I'm happy to answer any
10 questions you might have.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Well, thank
12 you so much for being here. And I have
13 to say that Councilwoman Blackwell
14 unfortunately could not be here because
15 of the scheduling of today's hearing, but
16 obviously this is something that I think
17 she's very excited about and very happy
18 about, and I think all members of Council
19 are very excited and happy to see this
20 day come.

21 Lucien Blackwell as a former
22 member of this body was just an
23 incredible force in the City of
24 Philadelphia. He did so many wonderful
25 things. He helped so many people. And

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2 so the Blackwell legacy continues on
3 through the renaming of this park, and so
4 I'm honored to be here and have this
5 opportunity to support this measure, and
6 I want to thank Parks and Recreation for
7 being supportive of it as well.

8 Councilman Jones.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
10 Madam Chairman. I move that Bill No.
11 190824 be moved from this Committee with
12 a favorable recommendation. I further
13 move that the rules of Council be
14 suspended to hear this bill at our next
15 session of Council.

16 (Duly seconded.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank you.
18 The motion has been moved and properly
19 seconded.

20 All in favor?

21 (Aye.)

22 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Any
23 opposed?

24 (No response.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: The ayes

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2 have it, and Bill No. 190824 will be
3 reported from this Committee with a
4 favorable recommendation and further
5 moved that the rules of Council be
6 suspended to permit first reading of this
7 bill at the next session of Council.

8 If we could have the Clerk now
9 read the title of the next bill.

10 THE CLERK: Bill No. 190829,
11 authorizing the Commissioner of Public
12 Property and the Parks and Recreation
13 Commissioner, on behalf of the City of
14 Philadelphia, to lease from the School
15 District of Philadelphia certain land and
16 improvements known as a portion of South
17 Philadelphia High School, owned by the
18 School District of Philadelphia, all
19 under certain terms and conditions.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And if we
21 could have the Clerk read the name of the
22 witness on the panel.

23 THE CLERK: Aparna Palantino.

24 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: And thank
25 you, Ms. Palantino, for being here.

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2 Please state your name for the record and
3 begin your testimony.

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PALANTINO:

5 Aparna Palantino, Deputy Commissioner,
6 Parks and Recreation.

7 Good afternoon, Chairwoman Bass
8 and members of the Committee on Parks,
9 Recreation and Cultural Affairs. I'm
10 here today to testify in support of Bill
11 No. 190829, an ordinance authorizing the
12 Commissioner of Public Property and the
13 Parks and Rec Commissioner, on behalf of
14 the City of Philadelphia, to lease from
15 the School District of Philadelphia
16 certain land and improvements known as a
17 portion of South Philadelphia High
18 School, owned by the School District of
19 Philadelphia, all under certain terms and
20 conditions.

21 This ordinance will allow the
22 City of Philadelphia to enter into a
23 long-term lease with the School District
24 for a parcel of land located in front of
25 South Philadelphia High School.

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2 Councilman Squilla, in whose district the
3 parcel in question resides, is in support
4 of this measure and has agreed to provide
5 capital funding for both the design and
6 construction of a passive park at this
7 location once this ordinance has been
8 approved. The scope of work will include
9 new seating, a walking path, and other
10 site furnishings. This proposed project
11 will be a tremendous benefit to the
12 residents in the neighborhood and has the
13 support of the local civic group, the
14 Lower Moyamensing Civic Association.

15 The Department of Parks and
16 Recreation also supports this measure
17 and, accordingly, I respectfully request
18 that City Council approve Bill No.
19 190829.

20 I'm also requesting a
21 suspension of the rules to allow for
22 first reading at the next session of
23 Council.

24 I'd be happy to answer any
25 questions you might have.

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2 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Any
3 questions from the panel?

4 (No response.)

5 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: No? Okay.

6 And there are no other witnesses to
7 testify. And if not, this concludes the
8 public hearing on Bill No. 190829. We'll
9 now go into a public meeting to consider
10 the action to be taken on the bill.

11 I want to recognize Councilman
12 Jones for a motion on Bill No. 190829.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
14 Madam Chair. I move that Bill No. 190829
15 be moved from this Committee with a
16 favorable recommendation. I further move
17 that the rules of Council be suspended to
18 allow first reading at our next session
19 of Council.

20 (Duly seconded.)

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: It's been
22 moved and properly seconded that Bill No.
23 190829 be reported from this Committee
24 with a favorable recommendation and
25 further moved that the rules of Council

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2 be suspended to permit first reading of
3 this bill at the next session of Council.

4 All of those in favor will
5 signify by saying aye.

6 (Aye.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Any
8 opposed?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: No? Okay.

11 The ayes have it, and with that, the
12 motion carries. Bill No. 190829 will be
13 reported from this Committee with a
14 favorable recommendation with a request
15 that the rules of Council be suspended to
16 permit first reading at the next session
17 of Council.

18 This concludes the public
19 meeting on Bills No. 190824 and 190829.

20 There being no further business
21 before the Committee on Parks, Recreation
22 and Cultural Affairs, I want to thank you
23 all very much for your attendance. Thank
24 you.

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2 and Cultural Affairs concluded at 2:20
3 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
proceedings, evidence and objections are
contained fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me upon the
foregoing matter, and that this is a true and
correct transcript of same.

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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