

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

ROOM 400, City Hall
Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania
Thursday, May 17, 2012
2:20 p.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILWOMAN CINDY BASS
COUNCILWOMAN BLONDELL REYNOLDS BROWN
COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILMAN DAVID OH
COUNCILWOMAN QUINONES SANCHEZ

Bill No. 120250

- - -

1 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
2 afternoon. This hearing is called to
3 order. This is a public hearing of
4 the City Council Committee on Parks,
5 Recreation and Cultural Affairs. The
6 purpose of this hearing is to hear
7 testimony on Bill 120250.

8 I want to recognize the
9 presence of a quorum of Committee
10 members. Members of the Committee in
11 attendance are: Council Majority
12 Leader Jones, Councilman Kenyatta
13 Johnson, Councilman Bobby Henon,
14 Councilwoman Maria Quinones Sanchez
15 and Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds
16 Brown. Councilman Jones, do you have
17 any opening remarks that you would
18 like to offer?

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: No,
20 ma'am.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.
22 Can the Clerk please read the title
23 of Bill 120250.

24 THE CLERK: Yes. An
25 Ordinance renaming and designating

1 Hetzell's Field located at Thompson
2 Street and Columbia Avenue as "Dave
3 Dougherty Field."

4 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.
5 And testifying on behalf of the
6 Department of Parks, Recreation and
7 Cultural Affairs we have Mr. Leo
8 Dignam. Can we have him come forward
9 to provide his testimony?

10 MR. DIGNAM: Good
11 afternoon, Madam Chair and Committee
12 Members.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Good
14 afternoon.

15 MR. DIGNAM: My name is Leo
16 Dignam, Deputy Commissioner for
17 Programs with the Philadelphia
18 Department of Parks and Recreation.
19 It is a pleasure to be here with you
20 today.

21 I appear before you to
22 present in support of Bill No.
23 120250, renaming and designating
24 Hetzell's Field located at Thompson
25 Street and Columbia Avenue as "Dave

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2 Dougherty Field."

3 Dave Dougherty was born and
4 raised in Fishtown and was involved
5 with the Fishtown Athletic Club for
6 over 40 years, improving the lives of
7 the residents of Fishtown through
8 sports. He served as board member
9 for 25 years and as President and
10 Athletic Director of the Fishtown AC
11 for the past 20 years. He touched
12 the lives of thousands of youth
13 through his coaching and
14 volunteering, often providing
15 monetary assistance to struggling
16 families.

17 He coached and organized
18 leagues in baseball, softball,
19 basketball, soccer and football.
20 Dave was instrumental in the
21 reorganization of the Fishtown
22 Athletic Club, making it one of the
23 oldest and largest sports clubs
24 serving children of all ages in the
25 city. He also helped raise money and

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2 recruit volunteers to improve the
3 physical plants of several Parks &
4 Recreation facilities in the area.
5 The Philadelphia Department of Parks
6 & Recreation wholeheartedly supports
7 the renaming of Hetzell Playground to
8 Dave Dougherty Playground.

9 Thank you for the
10 opportunity to discuss this important
11 issue with you today and I look
12 forward to your questions.

13 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Are
14 there any questions for this witness?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Okay.
17 Seeing none, I would like to take a
18 moment to say Councilman Oh has
19 joined us for the record. Okay.

20 Well, thank you for your
21 testimony. Is there anyone else to testify on
22 this bill?

23 MR. DIGNAM: Thank you,
24 Madam Chair.

25 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank

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2 you.

3 MS. McCULLOUGH: Good

4 afternoon.

5 Councilwoman BASS: Good

6 afternoon.

7 MS. McCULLOUGH: My name is
8 Debra McCullough. I am a long-time
9 resident of Fishtown. I am here to
10 testify on behalf of this bill. This
11 is a very emotional thing for many of
12 us in Fishtown. Dave Dougherty was a
13 friend of mine. He did so much for
14 our children. My kids played for
15 Fishtown for many years. They still
16 do. They are teenagers now.

17 And we as members of the
18 Fishtown community think this would
19 be a great thing to rename this field
20 to honor Dave. He did so much for
21 our kids.

22 And we did a lot of
23 research to ensure that there would
24 be no concerns from anyone from the
25 Hetzells. The Hetzells were a

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2 long-time Fishtown family from over
3 100 years ago. And as far as we can
4 tell, there are no residents left in
5 the neighborhood of that family so we
6 would not be doing any dishonor to
7 that family by renaming Hetzell Field
8 Dave Dougherty Field. And I speak in
9 behalf of the bill. And you can tell
10 I'm emotional about it.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
12 you for your testimony. Before you
13 go, I would like to recognize
14 Councilman Henon.

15 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank
16 you, Madam Chair. It's more of a
17 statement. I met Dave Dougherty, I
18 would say, about six to seven years
19 ago. And since then, I have had two
20 children, eight and ten, who play
21 rec, the Department of Rec sports. I
22 have also had the honor to witness
23 Dave and his contribution to the
24 Fishtown community and what he does
25 for sports.

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2 And as far as a family
3 legacy, I know his son is, you know,
4 and grandchildren and family members
5 are still involved on the board and
6 with the organization. So, you know,
7 I think it's a credit to him, his
8 family and to Fishtown. And it's
9 appropriate to support the changing
10 of the name in his honor. Thank you.

11 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
12 you. Thank you, Councilman.
13 Councilman Jones.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Mrs.
15 McCullough, I am just stunned. I
16 have never heard you speak outside of
17 your capacity of being with the LACD.
18 And to do so with such emotion and
19 commitment to the cause of the name
20 change just gives me pause. I just
21 want to put that on the record. So
22 that's all I have to say, Madam
23 Chair.

24 MS. McCULLOUGH: I'm here
25 as a resident, not in an official

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2 capacity.

3 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Thank
4 you. Are there any more questions
5 for this witness? Thank you so much
6 for your testimony. Is there anyone
7 else to testify on this bill?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: That
10 concludes testimony on Bill No.
11 120250. This now concludes the
12 public hearing on the Committee of
13 Parks, Recreation and Cultural
14 Affairs. We will now go into our
15 public meeting.

16 Okay. I would like to
17 recognize Councilmember Jones for a
18 motion on Bill No. 120250.

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank
20 you, Madam Chair. I move that Bill
21 No. 120250 as amended be reported
22 from this Committee with a favorable
23 recommendation and further move that
24 the Rules of Council be suspended to
25 permit first reading of this bill at

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2 our next session of Council.

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:

4 Second.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: So

6 moved and properly seconded. This

7 Bill No. 12050 as amended be reported

8 from this Committee with a favorable

9 recommendation. I further move that

10 the Rules of Council be suspended as

11 to permit the first reading at the

12 next scheduled session of City

13 Council. All those in favor say aye.

14 (Aye.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: Those

16 opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 COUNCILWOMAN BASS: The

19 motion carries. Bill No. 120250 as

20 amended will be reported from this

21 Committee with a favorable

22 recommendation with a request that

23 the Rules of Council be suspended

24 until the next session of City

25 Council. Resolution No. 12050 will

1 5/17/12 - STATED - BILL 120250
2 be recessed until the call of the
3 Chair. Okay. Thank you very much.

4 TIME NOTED: 2:54 P.M.

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3 CERTIFICATE

4 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
5 proceedings, evidence and objections are
6 stenographic notes taken by me upon the
7 foregoing matter on May 17, 2012, and that
8 this is a true and correct transcript of same.

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15 LYNDA C. VETTER

16 RPR-Notary Public

17

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19 (The foregoing certification of this
20 transcript does not apply to any reproduction
21 of the same by any means, unless under the
22 direct control and/or supervision of the
23 certifying reporter.)

24

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