



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

June 6, 2024

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

Enclosed for consideration and adoption by the Council of the District of Columbia is proposed legislation entitled the “Reservoir Park Recreation Center Designation Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2024”, the “Reservoir Park Recreation Center Designation Emergency Act of 2024”, the “Reservoir Park Recreation Center Designation Temporary Act of 2024”, and the “Reservoir Park Recreation Center Designation Act of 2024”.

This legislation will officially designate the new park and recreation center at the site formerly known as the McMillan Sand Filtration site located at North Capitol Street and Michigan Avenue, NW, as the “Reservoir Park Recreation Center”. The 25-acre McMillan Sand Filtration site is being redeveloped into a new mixed-use development, and a core component of the redevelopment is the six-acre public park and recreation center with a pool, fitness center, open green spaces, and meeting and gallery space for public use that will be designated by this legislation.

The name “Reservoir Park Recreation Center” was selected to speak to the site’s long association in the neighborhood with the adjacent water reservoir and the new name of the surrounding neighborhood, Reservoir Park. On May 21, 2024, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5E voted 5-1-0 in support of naming the new park “McMillan Park Recreation Center”. However, naming this site “Reservoir Park Recreation Center” rather than continuing the association with the name McMillan is due to deliberative efforts to disassociate with the problematic history of the former Senator James McMillan, for whom the site was renamed named after it had been operating for several years.

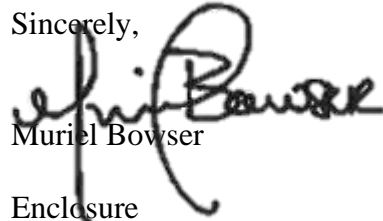
While the District has benefited from Senator McMillan’s efforts that led to the creation of the original water reservoir, today’s District cannot look past his troublesome record which harmed thousands of minorities in the United States and its territories and that spurred additional pain, economic loss, and racial inequities which we are still working to rectify today. The “City

Beautiful” movement in the District, which he helped lead, also baked in segregation and demolished African-American communities without building alternative housing.

We intend for the new park and recreation center to be open to the public in June. Approval of the enclosed legislation will facilitate the installation of park signage before the park opens to the public.


I urge the Council to take prompt and favorable action on the enclosed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Muriel Bowser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "M" and "B".

Muriel Bowser

Enclosure


Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

A RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to officially designate the park and recreation center located in Lot 105 in Square 3128 as “Reservoir Park Recreation Center”.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Reservoir Park Recreation Center Designation Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2024”.

Sec. 2. (a) There exists an immediate need to name the park and recreation center located in Lot 105 in Square 3128 as “Reservoir Park Recreation Center”.

(b) The twenty-five-acre site formerly known as the McMillan Sand Filtration site located at North Capitol Street and Michigan Avenue, NW, is being redeveloped into a mixed-use development.

(c) A core component of the redevelopment is a six-acre public park and recreation center with a pool, fitness center, open green spaces, and meeting and gallery space for public use.

(d) The name “Reservoir Park Recreation Center” was selected to speak to the site’s long association in the neighborhood with the adjacent water reservoir serving the needs of the surrounding community.

(e) Construction of the park and recreation center will be complete in May 2024.

30 (f) The Reservoir Park Recreation Center Designation Act of 2024 is under review by the
31 Council. However, to allow the park signage to be installed before the park opens in June 2024,
32 it is necessary to officially designate the park and recreation center as soon as possible.

33 Sec. 3 The Council of the District of Columbia finds that the circumstances in section 2
34 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Reservoir Park Recreational
35 Center Designation Emergency Act of 2024 be adopted after a single reading.

36 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.