

Wilmington, Delaware
June 18, 2026

#0250

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Harlee**

Co-Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Oliver**

WHEREAS, Wilmington City Code Section 2-3(d) authorizes and outlines the procedures for naming or renaming any structure, building, monument, ballfield, recreation center, or other facility owned by the City of Wilmington (the “City” or “Wilmington”) in order to commemorate a particular person; and

WHEREAS, Eden Park, located at 901 New Castle Avenue, Wilmington, Delaware, 19801, is a well-known gathering place for residents of Southbridge and the City for recreation, activity, and celebration; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council would like to name the pool house, pavilion, and football field located within Eden Park to honor three (3) individuals who have made considerable contributions to the South Wilmington community and to the City as a whole, namely William “Balagun” Robinson, Robert “Bob” Perkins, and Theopalis “Theo” Gregory, respectively; and

WHEREAS, William “Balagun” Robinson was a beloved Southbridge leader whose decades of mentorship, coaching, and community-building shaped generations of Wilmington youth; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson dedicated more than forty years to youth sports and recreation at Eden Park, becoming a trusted mentor whose guidance extended far beyond the playing field; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson’s legacy of service, kindness, and unwavering commitment to Southbridge continues to inspire residents and stands as a model of community stewardship; and

WHEREAS, Robert “Bob” Perkins has been a pillar of the Southbridge community, dedicating decades to strengthening neighborhood ties and expanding youth recreation opportunities that have supported the growth, confidence, and well-being of countless Wilmington children; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Perkins has been widely recognized for his leadership in creating safe, welcoming spaces for young people to learn, play, and thrive, and for his hands-on commitment to ensuring that Southbridge families have access to meaningful recreational programming; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Perkins has also demonstrated extraordinary compassion for seniors in the community, regularly organizing and providing food assistance to older residents, ensuring that Southbridge’s elders are supported with dignity and care; and

WHEREAS, Theopalis “Theo” Gregory has served Wilmington with distinction as an attorney, member of City Council, and advocate since his admission to the Delaware Bar in 1979; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gregory began his legal career at the Community Aid Society, providing critical legal support to Wilmington residents in need, and later served as an Assistant United States Attorney where he prosecuted cases on behalf of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and Drug Enforcement Administration and received special recognition for several high-profile prosecutions; and

WHEREAS, through decades of private practice focused on personal injury, civil rights, and criminal defense, Mr. Gregory has remained a steadfast champion for justice and equity in Wilmington; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gregory’s elected career focused on providing support and services for the youth of Wilmington, including founding the Greater Wilmington Youth Athletic Association and the City’s former Department of Education, providing leadership for the renovation of the P.S. DuPont Middle School Athletic Field and the development of the Police Athletic League – Wilmington, securing funds for the latest upgrades to the William “Hicks” Anderson Community Center, and ensuring City funding for small neighborhood parks; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gregory was instrumental in securing City funds to install a football field at Eden Park and to later upgrade it to an all-weather field for youth football and soccer that includes bleachers and improved fencing, resulting in an athletic field that is now rated among the best in the four-state area and is in high demand; and

WHEREAS, the sponsor of this Resolution has prepared a written justification attesting to the proposed naming and delivered it to Council Members in accordance with City Code Section 2-3(d)(1); and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has furnished a written opinion to Council Members stating the position of the Parks Department regarding the proposed naming in accordance with City Code Section 2-3(d)(4); and

WHEREAS, City Council finds that the conditions set forth in City Code Section 2-3(d)(2) have generally been met, including that Mr. Robinson, Mr. Perkins, and Mr. Gregory have made significant contributions to the well-being of the Southbridge community, and the City as a whole, and therefore Council deems it necessary and appropriate to recognize Mr. Robinson, Mr. Perkins, and Mr. Gregory through the commemorative naming of Eden Park’s pool house, pavilion, and football field, respectively.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that, in accordance with City Code Section 2-3(d), City Council hereby approves naming the pool house, pavilion, and football field at Eden Park as the “William “Balagun” Robinson Pool”, the “Robert “Bob” Perkins Pavilion”, and the “Theopalis “Theo” Gregory Field”, respectively.

Passed by City Council,

ATTEST: _____
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 17th
day of June, 2026.


Senior Assistant City Solicitor

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution approves naming the pool house, pavilion, and football field at Eden Park as the “William “Balagun” Robinson Pool”, the “Robert “Bob” Perkins Pavilion”, and the “Theopalis “Theo” Gregory Field”, respectively.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT: The Office of Management and Budget has reviewed this Resolution, which approves the commemorative naming of three existing facilities within Eden Park. The Resolution does not authorize new construction, facility expansion, additional staffing, new programming, or changes to existing operations. The Office of Management and Budget consulted with the Mayor’s Office Deputy Chief of Staff and the Director of Parks and Recreation and confirmed that, as part of the naming process, commemorative plaques will be installed at Eden Park. The Mayor’s Office will purchase the plaques, and the Department of Parks and Recreation will install them. All associated costs are expected to be de minimis and absorbed within existing budget appropriations.

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