



## Legislation Text

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### City of Alexandria, Virginia

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#### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** JULY 1, 2020

**TO:** THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** MARK B. JINKS, CITY MANAGER /s/

**DOCKET TITLE:**

Consideration to Authorize the City to Receive a Donation of a Sculpture in Honor of Earl Lloyd.

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**ISSUE:** The donation of a sculpture in Honor of Earl Lloyd.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council authorize the City to receive the donation of a sculpture in honor of Earl Lloyd.

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**BACKGROUND:** Earl Lloyd was born April 3, 1928 in Alexandria, Virginia to Daisy and Theodore Lloyd. Lloyd attended Parker-Gray High School, where he was a champion basketball player. Lloyd was named to the All-South Atlantic Conference three times and the All-State Virginia Interscholastic Conference twice. He would go on to have a stellar basketball career at West Virginia State College where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education. Earl was drafted into the NBA in 1950 and was then drafted into United States Army from 1950-52. Upon returning from the Army, he continued his NBA career. Earl Lloyd's accomplishments include:

- First African American to play in an NBA game: October 31, 1950 with the Washington Capitals;
- First African American to win an NBA Championship: 1958 Syracuse Nationals;
- First African American Assistant Coach in the NBA; 1968 Detroit Pistons;
- First African American Bench Head Coach in the NBA; 1971 Detroit Pistons.

In 2003, Earl Lloyd was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

**DISCUSSION:** Sculptor Brian Hanlon created two statues honoring Lloyd. One stands in the Earl Francis Lloyd Lobby at West Virginia State University. The second statue, which is identical of the first, was given to the family of Earl Lloyd to be donated (Attachment 1).

The family of Earl Lloyd has been working with members of the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame and other community members to bring one of the sculptures to Alexandria. Recently, the family has agreed to donate the sculpture to be placed at the Charles Houston Recreation Center (901 Wythe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314).

Staff from the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities Department, Alexandria Fire Department, and Department of General Services met at the Charles Houston Recreation Center and identified a location for the sculpture that complies with building and safety requirements (Attachment 2). The location also provides the opportunity to be seen from both sides.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Original Sculpture at Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame
2. Charles Houston Recreation Center Floor Map

**STAFF:**

Debra R. Collins, Deputy City Manager

Diane Ruggiero, Deputy Director, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities