



Support for Renaming Brent Elementary After Gardener Bishop

At a properly noticed general meeting on September 9, 2025, with a quorum present, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6B voted 8-0-0 to support the following resolution:

WHEREAS Brent Elementary School, named after Robert Brent, is located in ANC 6B, and

WHEREAS Robert Brent was the first Mayor of Washington, from 1802 until 1812; in 1808, Brent enacted laws called "Black Codes," which made it unlawful for Black people to be on the streets after 10:00 p.m.; in his final year in office, these codes were extended to require all Black persons to carry identification at all times; furthermore, Brent had previously had married into the family of Notley Young, who had enslaved hundreds of people in Prince George's Country, Maryland, and contemporaneous newspaper advertisements show that Brent was responsible for purchasing enslaved persons for his family's quarry in Aquia, Virginia, and

WHEREAS The Brent Equity and Inclusion Group, composed of caregivers and school staff, focused their work in the 2024-25 school year on renaming the school; after over eight months of community engagement including the submission of 57 names by students and caregivers, the Group selected a list of eight finalists using the criteria of individuals who were brave, empathetic, active, and responsible, and further narrowed this list down to finalists Elizabeth Catlett and Gardner Bishop, and

WHEREAS a vote by students, caregivers, and alumni families resulted in 378 votes to name the school after Gardner Bishop and 339 votes to rename the school after Elizabeth Catlett, and

WHEREAS Gardner Bishop, who was born in 1909 and died in 1992, was a barber, parent, and civil rights activist who lived in Washington DC; after his daughter was refused a transfer to Banneker School due to his family's class background, Gardner Bishop formed the Consolidated Parents Group in 1947 to boycott Browne Junior High School, an overcrowded and segregated school where students were rotated in shifts through abandoned elementary schools to receive the necessary hours of schooling, eventually forcing the Board of Education to resolve the issue; Gardner Bishop subsequently led an effort to enroll Black students at the segregated John Philip Sousa Junior High School, resulting in the 1954 Supreme Court case *Bolling v. Sharpe*, which held that the segregated public schools in the District of Columbia were unconstitutional;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED –

1. ANC 6B supports the renaming of Robert Brent Elementary School after Gardner Bishop.
2. ANC 6B urges the Mayor and Council to approve the naming of Gardner Bishop Elementary School, and to allow DCPS to make the necessary changes.

On Behalf of ANC 6B

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Ryd".

Edward Ryder, Chair ANC 6B