

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish City process and procedures in connection with the Public Facilities Commission's (PFC) authority to name or rename Municipal Buildings pursuant to City of Boston Code, Ordinances, Section 8-11.1 of the City of Boston's municipal code.

SCOPE

For the purposes of this policy, "Municipal Building" shall mean those facilities in the care, custody, and control of the City of Boston under the jurisdiction of the PFC.

ELIGIBLE BUILDINGS

Municipal Buildings eligible for renaming shall include those that have not undergone a naming or renaming process in the prior twenty (20) years unless otherwise ordered by the Mayor.

In instances where the Municipal Building is listed as a landmark by the Office of Historic Preservation or the National Register of Historic Places, the renaming petition must indicate one of the following to demonstrate eligibility:

1. Current building name is the result of demonstrable error;
2. Proposed renaming does not detract from building's historical significance and preserves recognition of the historical name; or
3. The proposed renaming highlights an honoree, location, or historical event of greater importance than the existing name based on their historical impact and contributions to the City

NAMING CRITERIA

Municipal Buildings may be named within the following categories upon presentation of compelling facts and/or circumstances that justify the City's long and ongoing recognition:

Individual Honoree

A building name may honor an outstanding individual who has displayed exemplary civic service to the City, nation or society.

Location

A building name may relate to the neighborhood, street, square or geographic location where it resides.

Historical Events

A building name may honor a historical event relevant to its location and/or the neighborhood where the building resides.

PETITION REQUIREMENTS

Renaming Petitions shall originate with the Mayor, City Council or Department holding care and custody of the building to be renamed and, for consideration as an agenda item by the PFC, must include the following:

1. Address of the proposed municipal building to be renamed;
2. Proposed name;
3. Municipal building's status as a landmark with the Office of Historic Preservation and/or the National Register of Historic Places; and
4. Summary outlining merits of the proposed name including background information and rationale behind the selection sufficient to address eligibility requirements and naming criteria listed above
5. Transmittal letter to PFC bearing signature approval from the requesting petitioner
6. All petitions not originating from the Mayor, must include a signed letter from the Mayor indicating mayoral approval for the renaming petition.

The PFC will not consider a petition that omits required items listed above.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

City Council Petitions

A petition submitted by the City Council must also include a Resolution passed by a majority of the City Council indicating the building to be renamed and the proposed name

Petitions to Rename School and Library Buildings

Any petition to rename a building under the care and custody of the Boston Public Schools must include a Vote by the School Committee, pursuant to a petition by the Superintendent, indicating support for the renaming petition.

Any petition to rename a building under the care and custody of the Boston Public Library (BPL) must include a Vote by the BPL Board of Trustees, pursuant to a petition by the BPL President, indicating support for the renaming petition.

The PFC will not consider a petition that omits items listed above as additional requirements.

PETITION APPROVAL

Petitions must be submitted to the PFC and presented by the Mayor's Office Chief of Operations.

The PFC shall approve a renaming petition that it determines to have met all requirements listed above.