

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 05-0102R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: President Dixon, Councilmembers D’Adamo, Young, Kraft, Harris, Holton,
Spector, Rawlings Blake, Reisinger, Clarke, Mitchell, Curran, Conaway
Introduced and adopted: October 31, 2005

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

**Rosa Lee Parks – From the Back of the Bus
to the Forefront of the Civil Rights Movement**

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3 FOR the purpose of celebrating the life of Rosa Lee Parks, the “mother of the civil rights
4 movement”, the champion of the Montgomery Bus boycott that culminated in the 1964
5 federal Civil Rights Act, and the recipient of the long-deferred 1999 Congressional Medal of
6 honor; and wishing her a final peaceful journey home.

7 **Recitals**

8 In 1955, Rosa Lee Parks, an active member of the local chapter of the NAACP in
9 Montgomery, Alabama, defied the Jim Crow laws in place since the post- Civil War
10 Reconstruction that required separation of the races in buses, restaurants, and public
11 accommodations throughout the south, by refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man,
12 and changed the course of American history.

13 Her refusal to comply with rules that required blacks to yield their seats to whites led to her
14 arrest which triggered a 381-day boycott of the bus system organized by a then little-known
15 Baptist minister, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., who was later to earn a Nobel Peace
16 Prize and a preeminent place in history and in the hearts and consciousness of people of all
17 colors in this country and the world over.

18 The Montgomery bus boycott took place a year after Baltimore’s own Thurgood Marshall
19 won the most important case of the century, *Brown v. Board of Education*, which ended the legal
20 separation of black and white children in public schools and marked the start of the modern civil
21 rights movement that culminated in the 1964 federal Civil Rights Act that banned racial
22 discrimination in public accommodations.

23 In her writings and public appearances, Mrs. Parks often lamented that historical accounts of
24 her actions on that fateful day perpetuated the mythology “that my feet were hurting and I didn’t
25 know why I refused to stand up when they told me. But the real reason of my not standing up
26 was I felt that I had a right to be treated as any other passenger. We had endured that kind of
27 treatment far to long.”

28 Dear Rosa, no longer the bus for you but a sweet, “sweet Chariot coming for to carry you
29 Home.”

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
2 Body celebrates the life of Rosa Lee Parks, the “mother of the civil rights movement”, the
3 champion of the Montgomery Bus boycott that culminated in the 1964 federal Civil Rights Act,
4 and the recipient of the long-deferred 1999 Congressional Medal of honor and wishes her a final
5 peaceful journey home.

6 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
7 family of Rosa Parks, the Baltimore Chapter of the NAACP, and the Mayor’s Legislative
8 Liaison to the City Council.