

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 11-0670
(Resolution)

Introduced by: President Young, Councilmembers D'Adamo, Kraft, Curran, Stokes, Cole,
Middleton, Branch, Clarke, Henry, Spector, Holton, Reisinger, Welch, Conaway
Introduced and read first time: March 7, 2011

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL concerning

2 **Tuesday, March 8, 2011 – Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Day**

3 FOR the purpose of declaring Tuesday, March 8, 2011, Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Day in
4 Baltimore City; celebrating the 100th anniversary of one of the nation's and Baltimore City's
5 greatest public servants; honoring Mr. Mitchell's tireless efforts to secure the passage of a
6 comprehensive series of civil rights laws; applauding his efforts to secure equal treatment for
7 all Americans; and providing for a special effective date.

8 **Recitals**

9 Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. (March 8, 1911 - March 19, 1984), born into humble circumstances
10 of a working class family in Baltimore, ascended to the halls of Capitol Hill where he became
11 known as the 101st U.S. Senator for his omnipresence in tirelessly pursuing the passage of a
12 comprehensive series of civil rights laws.

13 Mr. Mitchell was the pivotal force leading to Congressional passage of the 1957 Civil Rights
14 Act, the 1960 Civil Rights Act, the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and the
15 1968 Fair Housing Act. In 1969 he won the Spingarn Medal for these efforts. A civil rights
16 activist of world repute, he simultaneously served as the chief lobbyist for the NAACP for 30
17 years, as well as the organization's regional director.

18 After his retirement, Mr. Mitchell wrote an editorial column for the *Baltimore Sun*, which the
19 paper called "an extraordinary commentary on the civil rights movement", every Sunday until
20 his death in 1984. A retired *Sun* editor, who covered the civil rights struggle in Washington
21 during the 1960s, wrote in his piece on Mitchell that: "There were many fathers to the civil rights
22 victories; even orphans in defeat found themselves liberated. But a goodly share of the paternity
23 belongs to Clarence Mitchell. His city honored him posthumously by naming its courthouse
24 after him. He was, indeed, one of the leading Marylanders of the 20th century."

25 On March 23, 1984, his going home ceremony at Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist
26 Church was attended by an overflow crowd of some 2,500 mourners who gathered from around
27 the country to pay their respects. In attendance were common folks whose lives he had enriched,
28 as well as the political dignitaries of federal, state, and local government. In eulogy, the Senate
29 Minority leader said: "In those days, Clarence Mitchell was called the 101st senator, but those of
30 us who served here then knew full well that this magnificent lion in the lobby was a great deal
31 more influential than most of us with seats in the chamber."

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

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1 The contributions of Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., Baltimore's native son, to the strengthening
2 of American democracy extended beyond his hometown and state to the entire nation. For those
3 contributions and the gentle but firm lessons in negotiating for the better good that are his
4 legacy, we all share an abiding appreciation.

5 **SECTION 1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That
6 this Body hereby declares Tuesday, March 8, 2011, Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Day in Baltimore
7 City; celebrates the 100th anniversary of one of the nation's and Baltimore City's greatest public
8 servants; honors Mr. Mitchell's tireless efforts to secure the passage of a comprehensive series of
9 civil rights laws; and applauds his efforts to secure equal treatment for all Americans.

10 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the
11 Mayor, the family of Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City
12 Council.

13 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That this Resolution takes effect on date it is
14 enacted.