

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 06-0133R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Holton, Welch, President Dixon, Councilmembers D'Adamo, Curran, Harris, Branch, Young, Mitchell, Reisinger, Kraft, Rawlings Blake, Clarke, Conaway, Spector

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2006

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

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Committee Report: Favorable

Adopted: November 26, 2007

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**The Victorine Q. Adams Memorial Garden at City Hall**

FOR the purpose of calling upon the Mayor to join with the City Council in dedicating the flower beds that grace the entrance to City Hall in celebration of the life of Victorine Q. Adams, the 1<sup>st</sup> African American woman to serve on the Baltimore City Council, founder of the Baltimore Fuel Fund, and tireless worker for Civil Rights and Women's Rights, who, for more than 6 decades, enriched the lives of the citizens of the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland.

**Recitals**

Victorine Q. Adams, truly one of Baltimore's best and brightest, was born in this City on April 28, 1912, and passed away in this City on January 6, 2006. She graduated from Douglass High School, Coppin State College, and Morgan State College before embarking on a 14- year teaching career in Baltimore City Public Schools and an esteemed career in Baltimore politics and the Civil Rights movement.

Mrs. Adams accomplishments are many. In the early 1940's, she formed the Colored Women's Democratic Campaign Committee to elect candidates who were sensitive to minority issues and initiated a Junior Registration Corps that inspired children to become active in the democratic process. In 1966, she also was elected to serve her constituency, first as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates and then as a member of the Baltimore City Council where she served for 16 years.

While serving on the Council, in 1979, Mrs. Adams founded what became known as the Victorine Q. Adams Fuel Fund, the first Fuel Fund in the nation solely dedicated to helping low income families with the energy needs. In 1981, she established the Fuel Fund of Maryland as an out-growth of the Baltimore Fuel Fund. With her husband of 70 years, William L. Adams, Victorine established a lifelong legacy of giving to the business, education, civic, and spiritual communities. In 1984, they established The William L. and Victorine Q. Adams Foundation, one of the goals of which is to promote the undergraduate study of business for African American students from Baltimore City.

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

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1 As stated in the *Remembering Registry* of the March Funeral Homes where Going Home  
2 services for Victorine were held: “Her commitment to the growth of women, her concern for the  
3 family unit, and her love for the rights of the underprivileged was the springboard to her untiring  
4 involvement for a better quality of life for African Americans”. The organizations that were  
5 fortunate enough to count Mrs. Adams among their membership include Phi Delta Kappa, Sigma  
6 Gamma Rho, and Iota Phi Lambda Sororities; Negro Business and Professional Leaders;  
7 National Council of Negro Women; Baltimore Urban League; NAACP; Charmette Inc.; School  
8 Marms; Martinques, Inc.; League of Women Voters; N.O.W. - Women Together; Council for  
9 Cultural Progress; Hanlon Park Improvement Association; Coppin State and Morgan State  
10 Alumni Associations; Health and Welfare Council Homeless Task Force; City Council Task  
11 Force on Unemployment; and the Kidney Foundation.

12 Victorine Q. Adams lived a purposeful life dedicated to advocating for the most vulnerable  
13 and less fortunate among us – the young, the poor, the infirm, and the elderly. She did so with  
14 quiet dignity and ladylike persuasion – accompanied by steely determination. Like a beautiful  
15 flower, her petite genteel appearance belied her indomitable spirit.

16 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this  
17 Body calls upon the Administration to join in dedicating the flower beds that grace the entrance  
18 to City Hall in celebration of the life of Victorine Q. Adams, the 1<sup>st</sup> African American woman to  
19 serve on the Baltimore City Council, founder of the Baltimore Fuel Fund, and tireless worker for  
20 Civil Rights and Women’s Rights, who, for more than 6 decades, enriched the lives of the  
21 citizens of the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland.

22 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the membership of all the organizations to which  
23 Victorine Q. Adams belonged that are still in active status be cordially invited to attend the  
24 dedication of the Victorine Q. Adams Memorial Garden at City Hall.

25 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
26 Honorable Members of the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations to the 2006 Maryland  
27 General Assembly, the President of the Baltimore NAACP, the President of the League of  
28 Women Voters, the family of William L. and Victorine Q. Adams, Mr. Theo and Mrs. Blanche  
29 Rogers, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.