

CITY OF BALTIMORE
ORDINANCE _____
Council Bill 15-0531

Introduced by: Councilmember Kraft, President Young, Councilmembers Henry, Costello,
Branch, Holton, Scott, Middleton, Clarke, Spector, Reisinger, Curran, Stokes, Welch, Mosby
Introduced and read first time: May 4, 2015
Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee
Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Council action: Adopted
Read second time: May 11, 2015

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING

**City Property – Naming the Marble Fountain in Patterson Park to be the
Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr. Memorial Fountain**

FOR the purpose of naming the marble fountain in Patterson Park, located at the entrance on
Patterson Park Avenue at Lombard Street, adjacent to the property known as 27 South
Patterson Park Avenue, to be the Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr. Memorial Fountain; and providing for
a special effective date.

BY authority of
Article 5 - Finance, Property, and Procurement
Section 20-2
Baltimore City Code
(Edition 2000)

Recitals

Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr. was the first African American admitted to the Vanderbilt
School of Medicine, in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1968, at the time that Dr. Martin
Luther King, Jr. was murdered, he was still the only African American at that
medical school. In 1970, he graduated from Vanderbilt and was the first African
American to do so.

After graduation, he moved to Baltimore where he was the first African American
intern at Johns Hopkins University Medical School. From 1973 to 1975, he
studied at Harvard Medical School's Department of Physiology, performing
breakthrough research into the role of the renin angiotensin system in congestive
heart failure. When he returned to Johns Hopkins in 1975, he became the first
African American chief resident in heart surgery at the university.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Underlining indicates matter added to the bill by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by
amendment or deleted from existing law by amendment.

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1 At Johns Hopkins in 1980, he was a pioneer in performing the first implantation
2 of an automatic defibrillator, a small battery-powered device that detects
3 arrhythmia in the heart and emits an electric shock to correct it and which has
4 saved over a million lives in subsequent years.

5 Never forgetting his own experiences, as a member of the medical school's
6 admissions committee, he focused on correcting the racial inequality in the
7 student body. As a result of his efforts, by 1983, the number of African American
8 students at the Hopkins Medical School had increased fivefold to 40, compared to
9 the 8 students there in 1978.

10 Dr. Levi Watkins, Jr. became a full professor of cardiac surgery in 1990. He was
11 awarded a medal of honor as an outstanding alumnus by Vanderbilt and received
12 honorary doctorates from Sojourner-Douglass College, Meharry Medical College,
13 Spelman College, and Morgan State University. In 2010, he was awarded the
14 Thurgood Marshall College Fund award for excellence in medicine.

15 He was also a great friend to Patterson Park and was a cofounder of the Park's
16 Wine-Tasting at Sunset Fundraiser, now in its 11th year. He was a long-time
17 supporter of the Friends of Patterson Park and an advocate for the importance of
18 youth recreation opportunities.

19 Baltimore, the greater society, and Patterson Park are better because of Dr. Levi
20 Watkins, Jr. Naming the marble fountain in his honor will keep him in our
21 memories for future generations.

22 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
23 marble fountain in Patterson Park, located at the entrance on Patterson Park Avenue at Lombard
24 Street, adjacent to the property known as 27 South Patterson Park Avenue, is named the Dr. Levi
25 Watkins, Jr. Memorial Fountain.

26 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect ~~on the 30th day~~
27 ~~after the date~~ when it is enacted.

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Certified as duly passed this _____ day of _____, 20__

President, Baltimore City Council

Certified as duly delivered to Her Honor, the Mayor,
this _____ day of _____, 20__

Chief Clerk

Approved this _____ day of _____, 20__

Mayor, Baltimore City