

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 20-0540
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Costello
Introduced and read first time: June 15, 2020
Assigned to: Judiciary Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Planning Commission, Department of Real Estate, Department of Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Corrective – City Streets – Renaming Violet Hill White Way to**
3 **Violet Hill Whyte Way**

4 FOR the purpose of changing the name of Violet Hill White Way, which is located between the
5 700 blocks of West Lexington Street and West Fayette Street and before Martin Luther King,
6 Jr. Boulevard, to Violet Hill Whyte Way.

7 BY authority of
8 Article 26 - Surveys, Streets, and Highways
9 Section 7-3
10 Baltimore City Code
11 (Edition 2000)

12 **Recitals**

13 In 1998, per subdivision, a block was redrawn, and the former street name of
14 West Rose Aurd Place was stricken on the drawing and replaced by the name
15 Violet Hill White Way. That was the year that the Baltimore City Council
16 adopted, after a public hearing, a Council Resolution entitled “Violet Hill Whyte -
17 “Lady Law”, which honored the life and service of Violet Hill Whyte, the first
18 African- American woman appointed to the Baltimore City police force and an
19 outstanding citizen of Baltimore City.

20 Violet Hill Whyte was appointed to the Baltimore City police force in 1937,
21 and she was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 1955, and to the rank of
22 lieutenant in 1967, two months before her retirement. When first appointed to the
23 police force, she was assigned to the Northwestern District, at Pennsylvania
24 Avenue and Dolphin Street, and was not issued a gun, a night stick or handcuffs,
25 but was given only a badge and a police-box key. Officer Whyte, who soon
26 earned the respect of her fellow officers and of the residents of the West
27 Baltimore neighborhoods she patrolled, became affectionately known as “Lady
28 Law”.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 The welfare of children was of special interest to “Lady Law”, and she often
2 lectured on her six-point bill of rights to:

- 3 (1) be born healthy;
- 4 (2) receive spiritual training;
- 5 (3) have the advantage of a good education;
- 6 (4) be given nurturing custodial care;
- 7 (5) be protected under child labor laws; and
- 8 (6) be exposed to information about the dangers of narcotics use.

9 Violet Hill Whyte's life serves as an important lesson in the equality of men
10 and women and sets an invaluable example of teaching tolerance and
11 understanding through the personal demonstration of these virtues.

12 It is unfortunate that the street named after Violet Hill Whyte misspelled her
13 last name. Although in 1998, that street name change did not go through the
14 Ordinance process, it is now necessary to formally use the process to correct this
15 technical error.

16 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
17 name of Violet Hill White Way, located between the 700 blocks of West Lexington Street and
18 West Fayette Street and before Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, is changed to Violet Hill
19 Whyte Way.

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