



## Legislation Text

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**File #: 11-0744, Version: 0**

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INTRODUCTORY\*

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL

Introduced by: Councilmember Conaway

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ORDINANCE concerning  
**City Property - Renaming Hanlon Park to William and Victorine Adams - Hanlon Park**

FOR the purpose of changing the name of Hanlon Park, located at 2610-2650 North Dukeland Street, to William and Victorine Adams - Hanlon Park.

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

Recitals

The city that is Baltimore today owes a great deal to the contributions of William and Victorine Adams. Victorine Q. Adams, born in Baltimore, was a pioneer in African American politics and a civic leader, whose efforts to open up participation by citizens previously excluded in the electoral process resulted in major change. A former City school teacher, during the 1940's, she founded the Colored Women's Democratic Campaign Committee, an organization that supported candidates who were sympathetic to minority issues, and, in 1954, this organization achieved a landmark victory when Judge Harry A. Cole won a state Senate seat over the white candidate backed by an entrenched political machine. In 1966, she was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates and later to the Baltimore City Council where she served her constituents for 16 years. Among her accomplishments was her work with the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company to establish the Baltimore Fuel Fund, now the Victorine Q. Adams Fuel Fund, which was dedicated to helping low income families with their energy needs. She was a tireless worker for civil rights, and her contributions have made Baltimore City a better place for its citizens.

Just as his wife worked hard to open up the political process for those who had been excluded because of their race, William Lloyd Adams worked hard to open up the business environment for African Americans, who had been denied the financial assistance necessary to succeed in the larger business community. A successful businessman himself, he encouraged and lent money to people who found it difficult to receive loans or credit from local lending sources. Said his friend Larry Gibson, "I used to call him the Small Business Administration." One such business to which he provided financial help was the Parks Sausage

Company, which, in 1969, became one of the first black-owned companies to trade publicly on Wall Street. Together, he and his wife established The William L. and Victorine Q. Adams Foundation, which helps city students to attend college and study business. They understood the importance of economic development to the community.

SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That the name of Hanlon Park, located at 2610-2650 North Dukeland Street, is changed to William and Victorine Adams - Hanlon Park.

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

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