



Legislation Text

File #: 180350, **Version:** 1

180350
SUBSTITUTE 1

COMMON COUNCIL

Substitute motion naming the Milwaukee Common Council Ante Chamber as the Vel R. Phillips Memorial Ante Chamber.

This motion names the Milwaukee Common Council Ante Chamber as the Vel R. Phillips Memorial Ante Chamber.

Whereas, Vel R. Phillips was a spirited and distinguished political leader and fighter who served the community with unparalleled distinction and excellence; and

Whereas, Vel R. Phillips was born on February 18, 1924 on the South Side of Milwaukee, attended Howard University for her undergraduate degree and then went to the University of Wisconsin Law School, from which she was the first African-American woman to graduate; and

Whereas, In 1956, Vel R. Phillips became the first woman and the first African-American to be elected as a member of the Milwaukee Common Council, on which she served until 1971, and was an advocate for the African-American community and women, and instrumental in outlawing housing discrimination; and

Whereas, Continuing throughout her career to exhibit a fearless, pioneering spirit, Vel R. Phillips was also appointed a judge in Milwaukee County Children's Court in 1971, becoming the first female judge in Milwaukee and the first African-American judge in Wisconsin, and was elected as Wisconsin's first non-white Secretary of State in 1978; and

Whereas, Vel R. Phillips was always a leader in the African-American community and an advocate for women throughout Wisconsin, playing an active role in the NAACP and the civil rights movement, and was also the highest-ranking woman to win a state office in Wisconsin in the 20th century and the first African-American to be elected as a member of a political party's national committee when she was elected to the Democratic National Committee; and

Whereas, Through her foundation, Vel R. Phillips continued her work to better her community, with a mission "to serve as an economic hand of justice that seeks to eliminate invisible barriers between disadvantaged people and their goals, clearing the path for educational, occupational, social and political parity"; and

Whereas, By naming the Common Council Ante Chamber as the Vel R. Phillips Memorial Ante Chamber, the City can recognize Vel R. Phillips' historic contributions to Milwaukee; now, therefore

It is moved, By the Common Council of the City Of Milwaukee, that the Milwaukee Common Council Ante Chamber shall be named the Vel R. Phillips Memorial Ante Chamber, and, be it

Further moved, That a suitable plaque shall be affixed in the Common Council Ante Chamber in recognition of this honor bestowed upon Vel R. Phillips.

LRB171462-2
Teodros W. Medhin
6/6/2018