Committee a unanimous ‘yes’ on proposal to rename anteroom in honor of Vel Phillips

Today the Public Works Committee was unanimous in recommending approval of legislation renaming the third floor Council Chamber anteroom in honor of Vel R. Phillips.

The measure – authored by Alderman Cavalier “Chevy” Johnson and co-sponsored by Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs – now goes before the full Common Council on July 10. Today the file not only passed unanimously -- all members of the Public Works Committee signed on as cosponsors.

The ornately decorated anteroom in City Hall is utilized for meetings, receptions, news conferences and other events.

A trailblazing political leader and fighter who served the community with unparalleled distinction and excellence, Ms. Phillips passed away at age 95 in April. In 1956, Ms. Phillips became the first woman and the first African-American to be elected as a member of the Common Council, on which she served until 1971. As a member of the Council she was an advocate for the African-American community and women, and instrumental in outlawing housing discrimination.

The July 10 Council meeting will start at 9 a.m. (in the third floor Council Chamber at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.) and will be televised live on Spectrum cable and AT&T U-Verse in the City of Milwaukee and by the City Channel via streaming video on the city website at www.city.milwaukee.gov/Channel25.

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