

WHEREAS: Elma's passing will leave a void in the lives of all her surviving family, her nephews George C. Corbin Jr., Darnley Corbin Jr., and Albert Cadogan; her nieces Elaine Corbin, Valerie Corbin-May, Linda Corbin Meadows, and Emily Cadogan; her great nieces and nephews Gregory Corbin, Kafi and Rasheed Meadows, Darnley Corbin III, Milton and James Corbin, Alexander, Christopher, and Elizabeth Cadogan, Nicole Thorpe, Larry Johnson, Stefanie Corbin, Tiffany Griffith, Courtney Wellington, Ashley Wellington, Victoria Corbin-May, Alexandra Corbin-May and Avery Corbin; and her sisters-in-law Lillian Corbin and Lucille Shepard; and

WHEREAS: Elma will be sorely missed by all she touched and loved; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of Elma Ina Lewis at this time of such personal loss; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Lewis family on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council January 12, 2004.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-



D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



City of Cambridge

R-19.

IN CITY COUNCIL

January 12, 2004

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
VICE MAYOR DECKER
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR MURPHY
COUNCILLOR REEVES
MAYOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

- WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of Elma Ina Lewis on January 1, 2004 at the age of 82; and
- WHEREAS: Elma Lewis was born in Roxbury on September 16, 1921 to Edwardine Corbin Lewis and Clairmont Lewis; she was educated in the Boston public schools and Roxbury Memorial High School for Girls; and
- WHEREAS: Ms. Lewis graduated from Emerson College in 1943; while attending at Emerson she supported herself by acting in Boston theatrical productions; after college she received a master's degree in education from Boston University; and
- WHEREAS: Elma Lewis brought Boston's African-American arts community to international prominence by founding the National Center for Afro-American Artists in 1968 as a repository for black culture, and the Elma Lewis School for the Performing Arts in Roxbury in 1950; and
- WHEREAS: More than 6,000 students were educated at the Elma Lewis School for the Arts during the 50 years of its existence, and scores of her former pupils went on to successful careers in the performing arts; and
- WHEREAS: In September 1996, hundreds of her protégés and admirers held a three-day celebration of her 75th birthday, which included events at the Franklin Park Zoo, the Boston Public Library and the Museum of Science and included poet Maya Angelou and former UN Ambassador Andrew Young as guest speakers; and
- WHEREAS: Elma Lewis held honorary degrees from Emerson College, Harvard University, Boston College, Colby College, Anna Maria College, Salem State College, Regis College, Merrimack College and Clark University; and
- WHEREAS: Elma was the sister of the late Darnley Corbin Sr. and Dr. George Corbin Sr.; and

RES 2004 #19

RESOLUTION #19

Resolution on the death of Elma Ina
Lewis.

**Councillor Simmons and entire
membership**

In City Council January 12, 2004

ORDER ADOPTED