



**Letter of Support to Rename North 4th Street from West St. Paul Avenue to West Capitol
Drive Vel R. Phillips Avenue**

Markasa Tucker, Director of the African-American Roundtable

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The African American Roundtable supports the ordinance renaming North 4th Street from West St. Paul Avenue to West Capitol Drive Vel R. Phillips Avenue. The countless connections of her life on 4th Street included attending a former elementary school and attending St. Mark A.M.E Church where she later married while it was located on 4th Street. 4th Street was also a part of the 6th Aldermanic District she represented and it runs parallel to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, who she collaborated with during the Civils Rights Movement.

Milwaukee would not be where it is without the tireless work of Vel Phillips. As a native of Milwaukee she served as a leader in the Black community, a fighter for civils rights, advocating for women, and continued her work through her foundation, Vel Phillips Foundation.

Our city was blessed to have been a recipient of her countless accomplishments which included her being the first African American woman to graduate from the University of Wisconsin Law School. She also became the first woman and African American elected as a member of the Milwaukee Common Council paving the way for past, present, and future Common Council members and leaders throughout our city, including myself. Her work during her service as “Madam Alderman” was relentless and led to the housing ordinance that so many remember her for. Vel Phillips continued to walk boldly throughout her career. She was appointed judge in Milwaukee County Children’s Court and was the first African American judge in Wisconsin.

It is no surprise that several Common Council members are in support of this legislation. Vel Phillips is worthy of this honor, this recognition, and so much more. The countless number of accomplishments and the number of lives she touched is priceless. Renaming this street will honor her and her legacy.

Vel Phillips should always be celebrated in our city and what better way to do so than by renaming North 4th Street from West St. Paul Avenue to West Capitol Drive Vel R. Phillips Avenue.

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