



STATE SENATOR
LaTonya Johnson

WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

6TH DISTRICT

January 26, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

An ordinance to rename Old World Third Street, from West McKinley Avenue to West Wisconsin, to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was recently brought to my attention. I am writing to express my full support of this proposal. All cities possess the unique opportunity to honor exceptional individuals for their outstanding contributions and achievements to society as a whole.

Dr. King spoke in Milwaukee on a two occasions. His first speech here was delivered Aug. 14, 1957 at the Grand Avenue Congregational Church (now the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center), 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave. He returned Jan. 27, 1964 for a standing-room-only event at the Milwaukee Auditorium (now the Miller High Life Theatre). After King's assassination in April 1968, 15,000 people marched through the streets of Downtown Milwaukee. It remains the largest civil rights demonstration in the City of Milwaukee's history and was among the biggest in the country at the time.

I believe a new name can signal a brilliant future. This renaming can be a path to continuing the civil rights leader's nonviolent work of battling racial and economic inequality and the creation of a sense of belonging and place in the City of Milwaukee.

Sincerely,

LaTonya Johnson
State Senator
6th District