



HONORARY STREET NAME SIGN APPLICATION

City Hall, Room 205
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

PLEASE NOTE: A \$100 PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM
(Checks should be made payable to "City Treasurer")

1. Applicant information:

Applicant's Name Fannie Smith
Organization or Company Historic First Street Ad Hoc Committee
Street Address 116 W. Wright St. City/State Milwaukee, WI Zip 53212
Telephone 414-264-6215 Fax — Email —
** submitted via MKE Plays w/ Ald. Coggs*

2. Honorary Street Name Request

Street name requested Marlene Johnson - Odom Children's Park
Location of proposed designation: (for example, West Main Street from North 12th Street to North 15th Street)
2470-2478 N. 1st St. → DPW Neighborhood Park

3. Required Submittals:

- Refer to Chapter 113-3, Milwaukee Code of Ordinances (attached)
- A *typed* statement containing no fewer than **500 words** describing the significance of the person, place, or event being honored. The statement should indicate why a particular section of street has been requested for the honorary designation.

4. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT:

My application consists of the following items necessary to complete the application. Please check:

- NA* \$100 fee (check made payable to "City Treasurer"). *MKE Plays*
 Completed Application Form.
 Autobiography or statement regarding the person, place, or event being honored.

Signature *Fannie Smith* Date 2/5/20

Printed Name Fannie Smith

The Historic First Street Ad Hoc Committee

September 15, 2019

To: Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs

From: Fannie Smith

We, the Historic First Street Ad Hoc Committee, request the name change of the city tot lot from the 1st Street and Wright Street tot lot to the Marlene Johnson Odom Tot Lot. As home owner occupants, of 20 years or more in the Historic North First Street district, we organized in 2000 to improve our neighborhood.

Alderwoman Johnson Odom met with us as we discussed our concerns and actions which were needed to solve many of our neighborhood issues. Alderwoman Johnson Odom became a strong advocate and supporter of our group.

When issues came up in reference to the tot lot, an outside group had other plans for the tot lot. It was our group which took up the importance of the tot lot in our neighborhood as a wholesome and desirable play area for children to enjoy their childhood and engage in positive recreational activities. It was Alderwoman Marlene Johnson Odom who saved the tot lot for the children.

As an elected public official, Alderwoman Marlene Johnson Odom addressed many additional issues in the neighborhood including: housing, crime, and neighborhood development.

We are requesting the renaming of the tot lot to The Marlene Johnson Odom Tot Lot in honor and memory of her outstanding public service to our neighborhood.

Sincerely,



Fannie Smith

Historic First Street Ad Hoc Committee co-chairperson

cc: Mr. Matt Martwedt

Marlene E. Johnson Odom

This document is submitted by the Historic 1st Street Ad Hoc Committee in support of the effort to name the tot lot located at West Wright Street and North 1st Street in honor of Alderwoman Marlene E. Johnson Odom. Following her election in 1980, Alderwoman Marlene E. Johnson Odom completed twenty four years of consecutive Aldermanic service to the 6th Aldermanic District of the City of Milwaukee. Among her many achievements, Alderwoman Johnson Odom promoted and assisted in securing the continuation of the city tot lot. This accomplishment is evidence of the multiple ways this native born Milwaukee resident sought to improve and enhance her city.

Alderwoman Johnson Odom was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on July 1, 1936. She was the daughter of Bessie and Edward Jay Davis. It may be said that Alderwoman Johnson Odom's commitment to contributing to welfare of her birth city was influenced by the education she received in her city. A member of the National Honor Society, she graduated from North Division High School in 1955. She graduated from the Milwaukee Area Technical College and later became a member of the Board of Directors. In 1979, Alderwoman Johnson graduated with a bachelor degree from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.

Prior to her election to the Milwaukee Common Council, Marlene Johnson Odom was engaged in raising four children while participating in civic and media activities. In addition to serving on many boards of directors, she supported the American Heart Association, ASHS Family Services Center, The House of Peace, and the St. Jude Children's Hospital. Her media work gave her a distinct position in American television history. In 1961, she hosted the live television production, "Music With Marlene" on Milwaukee Channel 18. It is generally thought that she was the first African American woman to host a television show.

Marlene Johnson Odom was elected Alderman of the 6th District in 1980 and served in that position for twenty four years. During her term, Alderwoman Johnson Odom was respected as an outstanding public official who worked tirelessly with honesty and integrity for her constituents. A strong advocate for fair employment, economic development, and civil rights, Alderwoman Johnson Odom, led the Milwaukee Common Council to name North 3rd Street Dr. Martin Luther King Drive.

Alderwoman Johnson Odom is responsible for the current existence of the West Wright Street and North 1st Street tot lot. The lot has provided a safe play area and a designated recreation site for the surrounding residents. Students from the Clara Mohammed School, Inc. frequently visit the site. Stephen A. Sayles, former President of the Clara Mohammed School, Inc. Board of Directors, stated that, the tot lot is a special site for area residents. He noted that as a resident for over 40 years in the Historic 1st Street District he has often seen frequent little visitors at the lot. Mr. Sayles lives a block west of the tot lot and said, "It is indeed a treasure." as well as many other residents in the area who see and hear the children's laughter and enjoyment while playing in this much used city tot lot which was saved by Alderwoman Marlene Johnson Odom.