



Department of Public Works
Infrastructure Services Division

Jerrel Kruschke, PE
Commissioner of Public Works

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City Engineer

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November 3, 2025

To the Public Works Committee

Subject: Honorary Street Name Request – “Bishop Johnie C. Williams” -
North Teutonia Avenue between West Center Street to West Hadley Street.

Dear Honorable Members:

This letter is in reply to an application dated October 1, 2025 regarding a request for an honorary street name of Bishop Johnie C. Williams on North Teutonia Avenue between West Center Street to West Hadley Street.

Chapter 113-3 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances provides the guidelines to consider when reviewing honorary street name requests. The guidelines provided in the code have been reviewed and the following comments are offered:

Johnie C. Williams was born in 1922 Huntingdon, Tennessee but relocated to Milwaukee, looking for a better life. In 1947 he founded Holy Tabernacle COGIC with his wife. Then in 1950, the Williams opened Williams Temple COGIC. Johnie C. Williams was considered the longest serving cleric and active pastor in 2017, with 70 years as pastor and 40 years as WI Jurisdictional bishop.

The request to honor Johnie C. Williams with an honorary street name of “Bishop Johnie C. Williams” includes 25 letters and spaces. The letter size of the honorary street name will be sized to fit the standard honorary street sign.

Two (2) blue honorary street signs will be required and will be mounted at West Center Street and West Hadley Street. Please refer to the attached map showing where the honorary street name signs will be located. The existing Official Street signs at each location will remain. The petitioner may choose to furnish the honorary street signs, but they must be fabricated to established City standards. The City can fabricate the signs at \$50 each. In either case, the City will install the honorary street signs at a cost of \$50 per sign. The petitioner is to deposit \$100 to the City if they furnish the signs or \$200 if the City fabricates and installs the signs. If a sign needs to be replaced in the future, the City is to be notified of the missing or damaged sign and the petitioner is to cover the cost to fabricate and mount the sign as described above. The City’s cost to fabricate and install future signs is subject to change.

Provided that the honorary street name request meets the established design criteria and that the Department of Public Works does not incur any costs as a result of this action, we can support this resolution.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Muhs, PE, AICP
City Engineer

DB/cc

Attachments

