



## 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 Attorney Celia Jackson  
Organization or Company \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address 3272 E. Donald Ave City/State Idaho Zip 53110  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email celiajackson3@gmail.com

### 2. Honorary Street Name Request

Street name requested George Heriott De Reef

Location of proposed designation: (for example, West Main Street from North 12<sup>th</sup> Street to North 15<sup>th</sup> Street)

Hubbard Street, between Vine and Brown Streets (2 blocks)

### 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:

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name Celia Jackson

**George Heriott DeReef (September 5, 1869 – August 14, 1937)**

**George Heriott DeReef** was born in Charleston, South Carolina to Joseph Moulton Francis DeReef and Georgina Oldfield DeReef. After graduating from Claflin University, in Charleston, he received an A.B. from Howard University. DeReef then graduated from Howard University Law School in 1905 with an LL.B. and clerked for municipal Judge Robert H. Terrell in Washington, D.C., until moving to Milwaukee where he was one of only a handful of African American attorneys in the city. His law office was located at 14 Grand Avenue, Rooms 217-218, in the Empire Building.

Attorney DeReef was a delegate to the Emancipation Liberation Exposition in New York City in 1913. He chaired the Wisconsin Commission to the Half-Century Anniversary Celebration of Negro Freedom in Chicago in 1915. In 1924, he won the Republican primary election for state legislature in Milwaukee's sixth district, but did not win the election.

Attorney DeReef was active in the Milwaukee community, at one point leading the Milwaukee Chapter of the NAACP. He also served as president of the Columbia Building and Loan Association and was a director of the Milwaukee Urban League, and co-editor (1922) of Advocacy publication.

Congressman W. H. Stafford, who was placed on a committee to build an exhibit to take to Chicago as part of an exposition, charged DeReef with building the exhibit that encouraged people to build factories and plants in Wisconsin because "there was excellent labor pool of African Americans" in Wisconsin. Congressman Stafford is best known for being the sole Wisconsin legislator to vote against the Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill, which supported the continuance of lynching or not holding individuals responsible for lynchings.

**Sources:**

Wikipedia

Wisconsin Historical Society ([www.loc.gov/resource/sn84025842/1922-08-26/ed-1/?sp=2](http://www.loc.gov/resource/sn84025842/1922-08-26/ed-1/?sp=2))

50 Years of Freedom, Report of Committee; State of Wisconsin, Governor Emanuel L. Philipp, Chicago, August 22-September 16, 1915, "*Celebration of the Half-Century Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.*"

**From:** [Elmer, Linda](#)  
**To:** [Phillip, Laurie](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Honorary Street Names Check  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 3:05:39 PM

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Please just attach to each of the 3 honorary street naming apps – thanks!

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**From:** Marti, Yance <ymarti@milwaukee.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 2:49 PM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda <lrelmer@milwaukee.gov>  
**Subject:** Honorary Street Names Check

I received the check from Clayborn for the three honorary namings. Check #2553 for \$300.

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*Yance V Marti - P.E.  
City of Milwaukee, DPW, Infrastructure Services  
Central Drafting & Records Manager  
841 N Broadway, Room 802  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
414-286-2411*