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MOTHER DANIELS WAY
MOTHER SIMPSON WAY
Same numbers

June 18, 2004

Jeannetta Robinson (Daughter of Claretta Simpson)
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&

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Honorable Mayor Tom Barrett
200 East Wells Street
City Hall, Room 201
Milwaukee, WI. 53202

Dear Mayor Barrett:

Once again I would like to take the time out to say "congratulations on becoming **Mayor** of the great city of **Milwaukee**." Most importantly I wish to **Thank you**; for the past excellent service and accessibility that you have given not only me, but to the **Career Youth Development** family and to the great legacy of my mother "**Claretta Mother Freedom Simpson**." I have complete faith in **God** and you that you will continue your legacy by extending love, peace and hope to all people.

As a **45 year resident, homeowner**, long time friend & supporter of yours as a Congressman and now beginning a new relationship as our city's **Mayor**, I have a very special request for you. I am respectfully requesting to meet with you regarding something of great significance and historical substance. Before he officially left office, former Mayor John O. Norquist announced to the public that he would name a City of Milwaukee Street after my dear mother **Claretta (Mother Freedom) Simpson**, who is one of oldest contributing citizens of Milwaukee living in your city. 34 years ago **Mother Freedom** founded **Career Youth Development, Inc.** a Nationally recognized Community-based Organization at **2916-A North 10th Street**. The street in question is the **2900 block of North 10th Street between Locust and Chambers Street**. Where **Mother Freedom** presently lives and continues to serve the community, but we were told due to technical difficulty she cannot have a block named in her honor. **Former Mayor Marvin Pratt** also was involved with this project before leaving office. He was dedicated to giving **Mother Freedom** honor for a life of dedication to **Milwaukee**.

CITY OF MILWAUKEE
04 JUN 24 PM 3:20
RONALD D. LEONHARDT
CITY CLERK

We have requested to our Alderman Michael McGee Jr. to bring this Great Historical Movement forward, we have great confidence that he will. He will need your total support. Mr. Michael McGee Jr. also grew up under the influences of Mother Freedom. His Father marched with Mother Freedom. His grandmother worked with a labor of love at C.Y.D. I believe you will have all the City of Milwaukee Aldermen support in this endeavor.

We were told at that time a petition was needed to be created and signatures of 50% of the homeowners of the 2900 block of North 10th Street between Locust and Chambers Street had to give their signatures indicating their acceptance.

We then submitted the petition along with Claretta Simpson's biography to the City Of Milwaukee Common Council. First we received a letter on April 30, 2004 from the **City Clerk Ronald D. Leonhardt (letter attachment #1, dated 4/23/04)** that stated in according to section 118-3 of the Milwaukee code of ordinances that our petition submitted was invalid. We counted the number of houses on the street, which came to 23 homes, and we obtained 12 individual homeowner signatures (including 1 duplicate).

However, according to the City's response letter there are 29 properties (*we were not aware that we were to include the land between homes with no structures on them in the count*), so we are now only 3 homeowner signatures from our goal, which is now being obtained.

To our surprise we received a letter today June 17, 2004 from the City of **Milwaukee's Common Council/City Clerk Staff Assistant Ms. Terry J. MacDonald** with the **Public Improvement Committee (letter attachment #2)** stating that there are **(2) two more obstacles** outside of the #1 mentioned earlier being the additional petition signatures (*which is currently being resolved*) and now #2 **The location** according to **Chapter 113-3-7-a Street Names**: "In order to facilitate the location of addresses particularly for the purposes of mail delivery and the provision of emergency services, a street name shall bear the same name throughout its length where appropriate."

In the letter received with the letter from Ms. MacDonald from The Department of Public (**letter attachment #3**) they state the following:

Currently, North 10th Street extends from West St. Paul Avenue north to West Hope Avenue. They state that changing the street name of north 10th Street between West Chambers Street and West Locust Street would not be consistent with this section of the ordinance.

Mayor Barrett this is where we desperately need your professional guidance and assistance. To our knowledge we know for a fact of existing streets that run for more than 20 blocks, which have had name changes that only cover a small specific area. Here are (4) that we are aware of for a fact.

- There are many examples of streets being named. Why must this 102 be Old Police for freedom he died*
- 42nd street that runs more than 3 miles but is named Grant Blvd. between North Avenue and Center Streets.
 - West Hadley Street, which runs east to west for more than 3 miles, is named Elder Wallace Drive for approximately 3-4 blocks only.
 - North 36th Street, which runs north and south for more than 3 miles, is named Mother Daniels Way for approximately 2 - 3 blocks.
 - 3rd Street is named Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive (Old World Third Street) & 3rd Street (3 names). *and Green Bay*

** 7th Street - Rev. Dr. Johnson Street*

We do not know the circumstances behind these streets having name changes for only several blocks on a street that runs like 10th Street for more than a mile but, we feel there truly is a way to overcome this obstacle.

Ms. Simpson marched across this nation with **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** for freedom for all people. **Ms. Simpson** was a part of the freedom riders with S.N.C.C. (*Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee*), **Chairman Stokely Carmichael** and walked across the **Selma, Alabama Bridge** and was bitten by dogs in that historical moment the conscious of America was pricked and most Americans joined in the fight for freedom.

In Milwaukee she walked across the 16th Street Bridge with Father Groppi and the Alderperson Vel Phillips for fair and open housing and was jailed fighting for our freedom. Still singing her freedom song, "**Ain't Going to Let Nobody Turn Me Around**"

Mother Freedom and I were part of the organizers that were united to overcome the obstacles to naming part of 3rd Street into **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive**. **Mother Freedom** is a nationally recognized freedom fighter whose shoulders we stand on.

The people have spoken the homeowners of the **2900 block of North 10th Street** desire to honor this hero "**Claretta Mother Freedom Simpson**" in this way and we know you will effectively fight for the will of the people and you will win, because **God** is on our side.

Mayor Norquist promised publicly at the **Metropolitan Baptist Church** at the occasion of Mother Freedom's 100th Birthday, that this block would be named in her honor for the great work she did here in the little back house to save the children of **Milwaukee** and for her heroic and effective participation in the **Civil Rights** struggle across this nation for all Americans. She endured being run over by the horses at **Colbert Hall** in **Detroit, Michigan** for our freedom, being bitten by dogs in **Selma, Alabama** for our freedom, marched and went to jail from the **Milwaukee School Board** for better education for our children, she was one of the petitioners for the now famous law suit by **Lloyd Barbee** for better education.

Do not let one of **Milwaukee's Oldest Voters** down. Keep your campaign promise you made to those who voted for you. Don't let this moment pass; **God** will guide you to the promise land of getting this block named in honor of this Great National Civil Rights Leader.

We can overcome the obstacles the letter talked about, we must begin to name *our streets, our buildings and our schools* after those people who gave their lives for the great cause of freedom, so that future generations will remember and be refreshed to understand they too must participate in the struggle for freedom until Victory Is Won. As **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** said **"We will get there as a people."**

The **2900 block of North 10th Street** is selected because this is the **Historical** spot where **Mother Freedom** Founded the nationally recognized community based organization named **Career Youth Development**. Many great men grew up in the **Back House**; they ate there, learned values there and received help to become the Great Leaders of today. Some of the Great men that benefited in knowledge, experience, discipline and God's love and today stand as a testimony to **"Love In Action"** they received from **Mama Simpson** in the little back house 34 years ago. Such people as **Mr. Ralph Hollman, Executive Director of Milwaukee's Urban League, Alderman Joe Davis, Senator**

Leon Young, Senator Gwen Moore, County Supervisor James White all grew up under the influence of **"Claretta Mother Freedom Simpson"** and **C.Y.D.**

The old **Prophet** asked **Ester** who lived in the Kings House "How do you know that you were not put here by **God** at this time for such a time as this?"

The **2900 Block of North 10th Street** must be named **"Claretta Simpson Way"** so that present and future generations will remember that they too must participate in the struggle as a winner and that Victory will be ours.

The Bible says **"Give Honor to Whom Honor is Due, Tribute to Whom Tribute is Due"**. **Mayor Barrett** you have been a positive part of uplifting **Mother Freedom Claretta Simpson's** legacy by supporting **C.Y.D. (She is the Co-Founder)** by giving us a **National Award** in **Washington D.C.** where the **Washington Times** newspaper honored me my mother and **C.Y.D.** You were there at each Image Award with your children to see the faces of the African American children and families receive awards during our **33 years** of **Image Awards**. People like **Bishop Daniels** received an **Image Award** from **C.Y.D.** for his singing at the West Side C.O.G.I.C. Youth Choir as a child. **Common Council President Willie Hines** was given an award from **C.Y.D.** as a child for his outstanding character as a young man and his talent at being "a skilled church drummer."

We have always had an excellent relationship when you were a **Congressman**, you were accessible, you helped lift through congressional recognition **"Mother Freedom"** Dream for freedom so now today we ask you to name the **2900 Block of North 10th Street** **"Claretta Simpson Way"** and it will stand as a testimony that one of **God's** finest **Freedom Fighters** fought for freedom and won!

So; Honorable Mayor Tom Barrett; Let the Freedom Bells Ring from the 2900 Block of North 10th Street. Claretta Simpson Way for All The World to Hear; Let Freedom Ring!

Furthermore, this issue is time sensitive with **Ms. Claretta (Mother Freedom) Simpson** currently living and in reasonably good health at the blessed age of 102 years old. It would mean so much to her and to the many individuals and families whose lives she has touched in a positive way to have this street dedicated to her while she is still alive and able to be present for the actual ceremony.

With **God's** help, through faith and with prayer we, will overcome these obstacles and make a well deserved leader of our society that has been responsible for a multitude of changes in our city's civil rights and nationally be rewarded this honor of having the **2900 Block of North 10th Street between Locust and Chambers named: N. Claretta Simpson Way.** We will await your response.

I conclude by saying **thank you** for all you have done for the community and especially for me and **C.Y.D.** May God Bless You.

Please, let me know which specific staff person you are assigning to this task.

Attached is information regarding **Ms. Claretta Mother Freedom Simpson** and the entire history and make-up of **C.Y.D.** If any further information is needed please feel free to contact me **Jeannetta Robinson** or my son, **Charles L. Walton (Butch)** at the above numbers listed.

Yours for Youth & Adult Development,

Commissioner Jeannetta Robinson

Jeannetta L. Robinson/Charles L. Walton

JLR/CLW/clw
Attachments:

CC: Alderman Michael McGee Jr.
Chairman Willie Hines

*Commissioner to the
Louisiana Juvenile
Justice Commission
Co-Founder CEO of CYD
34 year old social serv.
org.*

To: City Clerk + Improvement Committee
*"I have faith in God and I have faith in the
Integrity of the men and women (you) who the
people have placed in this position that you will
make sure for this and future generations that this
gets done now while Ms Simpson lives
102 year old A great freedom fighter for all
the people. This legacy of hope
we leave to children*