



January 26, 2021

Members of the City of Milwaukee Public Works Committee
Milwaukee City Hall
200 E. Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Re: File #201318, an ordinance renaming Old World Third Street, from West McKinley Avenue to West Wisconsin Avenue, Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive

Dear Committee Members,

We are writing to you today to express our full support of the ordinance by Alderwoman Coggs to rename Old World Third Street, from West McKinley Avenue to West Wisconsin Avenue, Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive.

Our vision at Milwaukee County is that by achieving racial equity, we will be the healthiest county in Wisconsin. Milwaukee County is often listed on national lists as the most segregated communities in the country, and County Executive Crowley has pledged to remove us from those grim statistics. In the last two years Milwaukee County government has made great strides identifying, addressing, and eliminating institutional racism in its policies, procedures, practices, and power structures that, whether intentionally or unintentionally, work in the favor of white people and create barriers for Black, Brown, and Indigenous people. We have arrived at this moment to center Black lives and contributions to our community, while honoring our history and looking towards creating a more equitable future with more opportunities that create spaces of belonging.

The history of racial inequities in Milwaukee County is long and deep, but by acknowledging the ways in which government has contributed to racial inequities, we hope to create a brighter future where everyone feels like they belong. The renaming of Old World Third Street to Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr., signifies that the City of Milwaukee is ready to take steps demonstrating a commitment to racial equity, knowing that the journey is not without challenges, but this work is imperative.

Sincerely,

Jeff Roman, Executive Director
Milwaukee County Office on African American Affairs