



Fire Department

January 25, 2021

Aaron Lipski
Acting Chief

David Votsis
Assistant Chief

Joshua Parish
Assistant Chief

Andrew Timm
Acting Assistant Chief

Alderman Cavalier Johnson
Common Council President
200 East Wells Street, Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Common Council President Johnson:

The Milwaukee Fire Department is proud and excited to partner in recognizing the State of Wisconsin's first African-American Architect, the late Alonzo Robinson, for his key role in designing our headquarters fire station, Station 2 & Fire Administration. The building is the Milwaukee Fire Department's marquee station, housing the apparatus and personnel assigned out of Fire Station 2 (the 1st and 2nd floors of the building – 755 North James Lovell Street) AND our Fire Administration offices (the 3rd floor of the building – 711 West Wells Street). While there are two separate addresses assigned, it is indeed a single structure.

After you and I spoke, I explored our departmental records and was happy to find Mr. Alonzo Robinson listed as both the "Designer" and the "Designer-in-Charge" throughout the blueprints for the structure. I am comforted by your assurances that the appropriate and complete vetting of Mr. Robinson for recognition in this very public manner is complete and clear, and that we will be able to memorialize his work designing our headquarters through a formal civic building designation.

On a related note, in the original communications on this effort some concern was raised regarding funding. While all of our budgets are extremely tight, I would like to offer the incredibly creative and skilled services of the Milwaukee Fire Department Repair Shop in crafting or producing any appropriate and fitting plaque or signage. Perhaps this will help assuage any worries that might arise?

Respectfully, please include the Milwaukee Fire Department in any planning meetings or ceremony planning so that we may properly prepare to support this project. You can route any communications directly to me.

Sincerely,

AARON LIPSKI
Acting Chief

AL/cf