



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 Cathy Wanzo
Organization or Company Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church
Street Address 1345 W. Burleigh St. City/State Milwaukee, WI Zip 53206
Telephone 414-562-7200 Fax 414-562-7850 Email mbc100@sbcglobal.net

2. Honorary Street Name Request

Street name requested Rev. Willie D. Wanzo Sr.

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

West Burleigh St from North 13th St to North 14th St

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 Cathy D. Wanzo Date 7/1/18

Printed Name Cathy Wanzo



Obituary

REVEREND WILLIE D. WANZO, SR.

OCTOBER 13, 1926 - OCTOBER 23, 2012

On October 13, 1926, Reverend Willie D. Wanzo, Sr. was born a sharecropper's son in Pike County, Mississippi. He accepted Christ as his personal Savior under the leadership of Reverend Ned Taylor of St. James Missionary Baptist Church during a church revival in the second week of August.

In order to make a better life for himself, he moved to Milwaukee in August of 1951. He united with Metropolitan Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Reverend A. W. Wise. Reverend Wanzo worked hard at Metropolitan. He served as a deacon, assistant Sunday School teacher and supervisor.

He accepted his call to the ministry in August of 1955, serving as an Assistant Pastor of Metropolitan from 1955 to 1972 under the leadership of the late Reverend E. M. Kelly, Sr. Reverend Wanzo was appointed Interim Pastor of Metropolitan in August of 1972 and installed as Pastor in August of 1973.

Reverend Wanzo has attended the Milwaukee School of Engineering and Milwaukee Area Technical College. He has taken correspondence courses from such notable institutions as the American Baptist Institute of Chicago, The Moody Bible Institute and the Christ Church.

Reverend Wanzo was a community leader and received numerous awards including the NAACP Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Award and the Community Journal Black Excellence Award.

Reverend Wanzo was a devoted father, grandfather, and loving husband. He was a true man of God. He loved the Lord and it was demonstrated in all that he did. He loved the Metropolitan Church family and served faithfully for sixty years - forty years as Pastor and twenty years as Assistant Pastor. He led by example. He had a humble and giving spirit and was always ready to help those in need.

He loved education and was a voracious reader. In one year, he read a thousand books. His love for education was evident in his teaching preaching style.

For 54 years, Reverend Wanzo was married to Grand Lady Gladys Wanzo until her passing in 2004. Rev. Wanzo leaves to cherish his memory: five children, Dr. Cassandra Wanzo of Atlanta, GA, Cathy Wanzo and Regina Wanzo of Milwaukee, WI, Willie Jr. (Victoria L.) Wanzo of Gulfport, MS, and Marcus Wanzo Sr. (Victoria S.) of Milwaukee, WI; six grandchildren, Lisa Parson (Timothy), Taj Wanzo, Raymond Pirtle Jr., Jamal Wanzo, Marcus Wanzo Jr. and Sharron Thomas; great grandchild, Brooklynn Wanzo; one sister, Bertha Bullock (Eugene); one brother, Melvin Wanzo Sr. (Warrine); two sisters-in-law, Annie McMorris and Dorothy Wanzo; adopted granddaughter, LaSalle Sellers; nieces, nephews, Godchildren and a host of other relatives and friends.

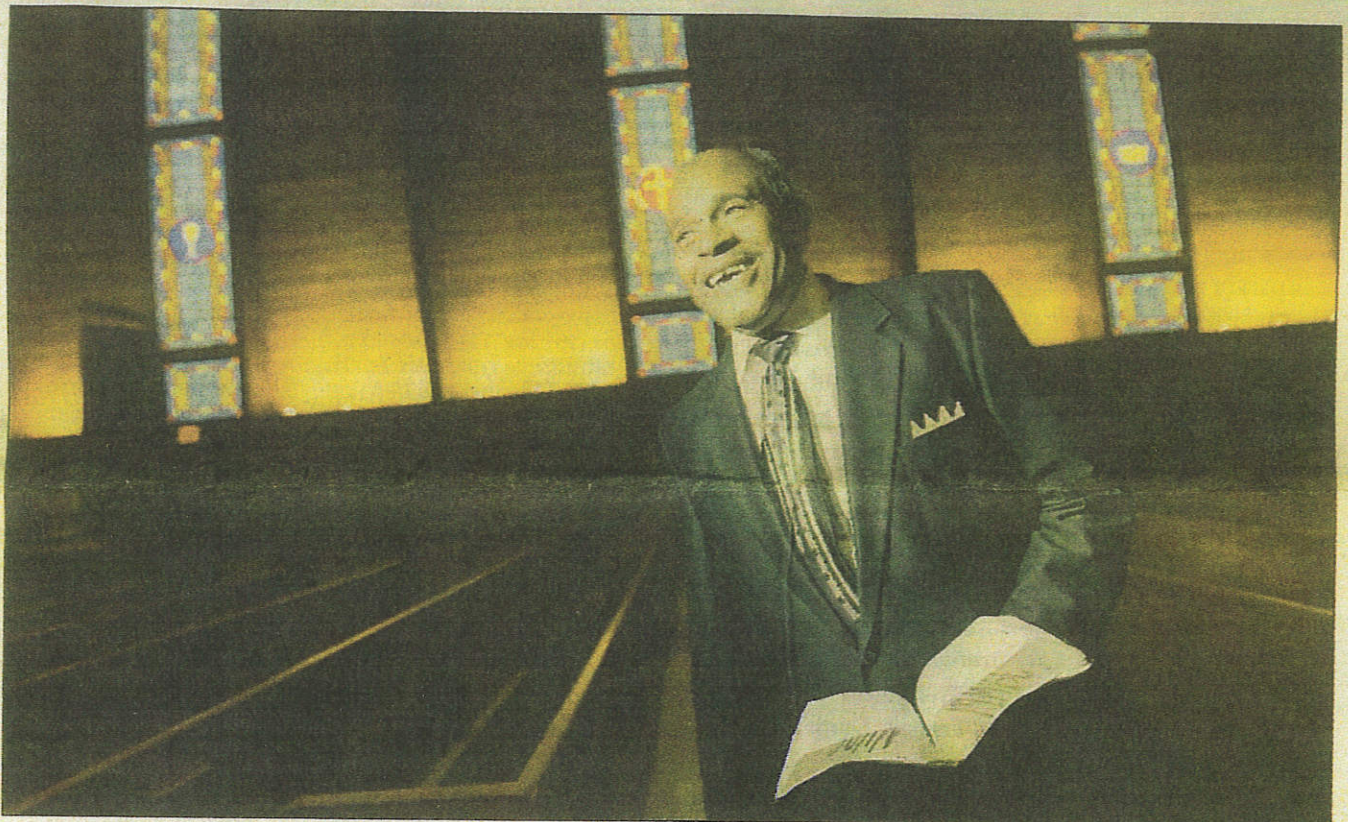
Reverend Wanzo was preceded in death by his parents, Elijah and Myra Wanzo; one sister, Ora Lee Magee; and brothers, Leroy Wanzo and Roosevelt Wanzo.

One of his favorite scriptures was:

"I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13





KRISTYNA WENTZ-GRAFF / KWENTZ@JOURNALSENTINEL.COM

The Rev. Willie Wanzo Sr. has been the pastor at Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church since 1973. When Wanzo started at the church, a parishioner believed he wouldn't last six months, but the enthusiastic minister outlasted the prediction and will be on hand to celebrate the church's 70th anniversary on Sunday.

70 years of hallelujah

Metropolitan Missionary Baptist maintains traditional focus

By **TOM HEINEN**
theinen@journalsentinel.com

The Rev. Willie D. Wanzo Sr., ministering in one of the city's poorest areas, still stands tall on traditional teachings as he leads Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church in its 70th year.

Several hundred people are expected to gather there Sunday for an anniversary service beginning at 10:30 a.m. with a procession of the pastor, the deacons, the trustees and their wives.

Sometimes called "the voice on the corner" — echoing God's voice in its work — Metropolitan is involved in the community but is not regularly in the spotlight.

It's the church that Vernita Lee, mother of talk-show host

Oprah Winfrey, has attended for decades.

Her daughter lived with her in Milwaukee from ages 6 to 13 and has returned to the church a few times, including for a Grand Ladies birthday celebration where Lee was an honoree in 2004.

It's where the Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee announced its 2005 CROP walk to ease hunger.

It's where the Rev. Jesse Jackson started a day of campaigning for Democratic candidates in 1998, and where he campaigned for the presidential nomination in the 1980s.

And, of course, it's where Wanzo preaches.

"We are a conservative church," said Wanzo, 80, who be-

Please see **CHURCH, 5B**

From page 1

CHURCH

Inner-city congregation to celebrate 70 years

came pastor in 1973. "We try to put a lot of emphasis on old-fashioned biblical principles, about being responsible, and clean living, and being more concerned about trying to help the community."

His core message?

"What I try to get them to do is stick with what I call the conservative program that places a lot of emphasis on God and on Jesus Christ and living the good life, trying to stay out of trouble and keeping yourself occupied with helping people, (having) good study and work habits, and treating each other in a Christian manner."

The church is conservative in its budgeting, too, and is not dependent on donations from Lee or from Winfrey, Wanzo said.

Metropolitan started in 1937 in the O'Bea Funeral Home that used to be on W. Walnut St., then was at 904 W. North Ave. for years and moved in 1968 to a new church at its present site, 1345 W. Burleigh St., said John Broadnax, 83, an attorney, longtime member and chairman of the deacon board.

A \$700,000 addition about six years ago changed the flat roof to a pitched roof to solve rain leakage and heat loss problems.

It also added space, including doubling the size of the kitchen to feed more needy people.

"That's one of our special ministries, where we feed hungry people coming in off the street," Wanzo said.

The church serves hot meals at 5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Sundays. It provides bags of food from its pantry on Tuesday mornings for needy people within the 53206 ZIP code.

One Saturday a month, church volunteers cook a meal and drive it to The Guest House shelter.

"Some people are just barely living from paycheck to paycheck," Wanzo said. "We have to struggle more with these people and try to help them and counsel them. It puts an extra load on these inner-city churches."

His church also has a clothing bank, a tutorial program, a charity fund

that provides limited assistance, a college scholarship fund, Bible study classes, popular choirs, a polling place for voting, and organized support of foreign missions.

The church often draws Sunday attendance of 500 to 600 people, Wanzo said.

Some who come from the neighborhood have been stressed by the city's loss of heavy industry and those well-paying jobs over the decades.

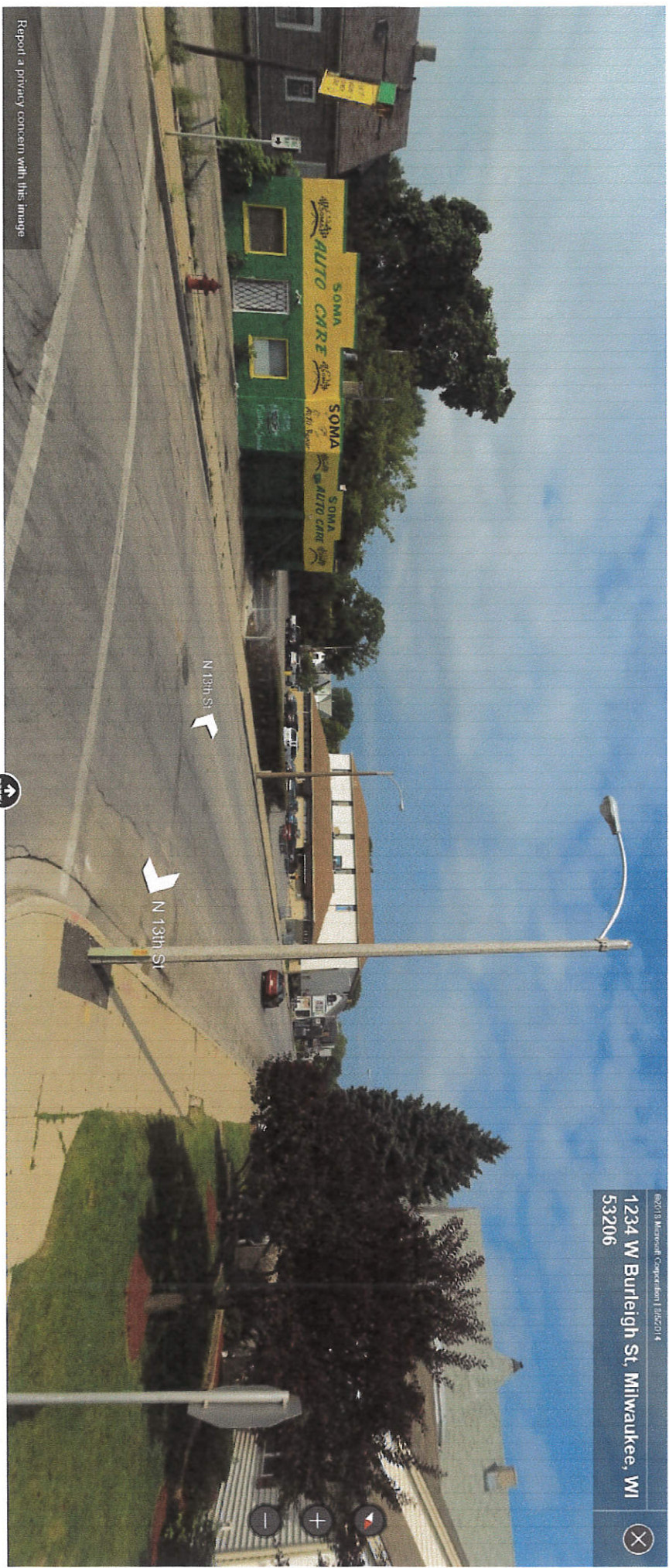
Many teachers, attorneys and other professionals have moved to area suburbs or outlying parts of the city but have remained involved and attend services, said Broadnax, of Whitefish Bay.

"We're trying to hold our own, but there's been such a decline in the area, with so many houses torn down in the past 10 to 15 years," said Wanzo, who joined the church as a layman in 1951.

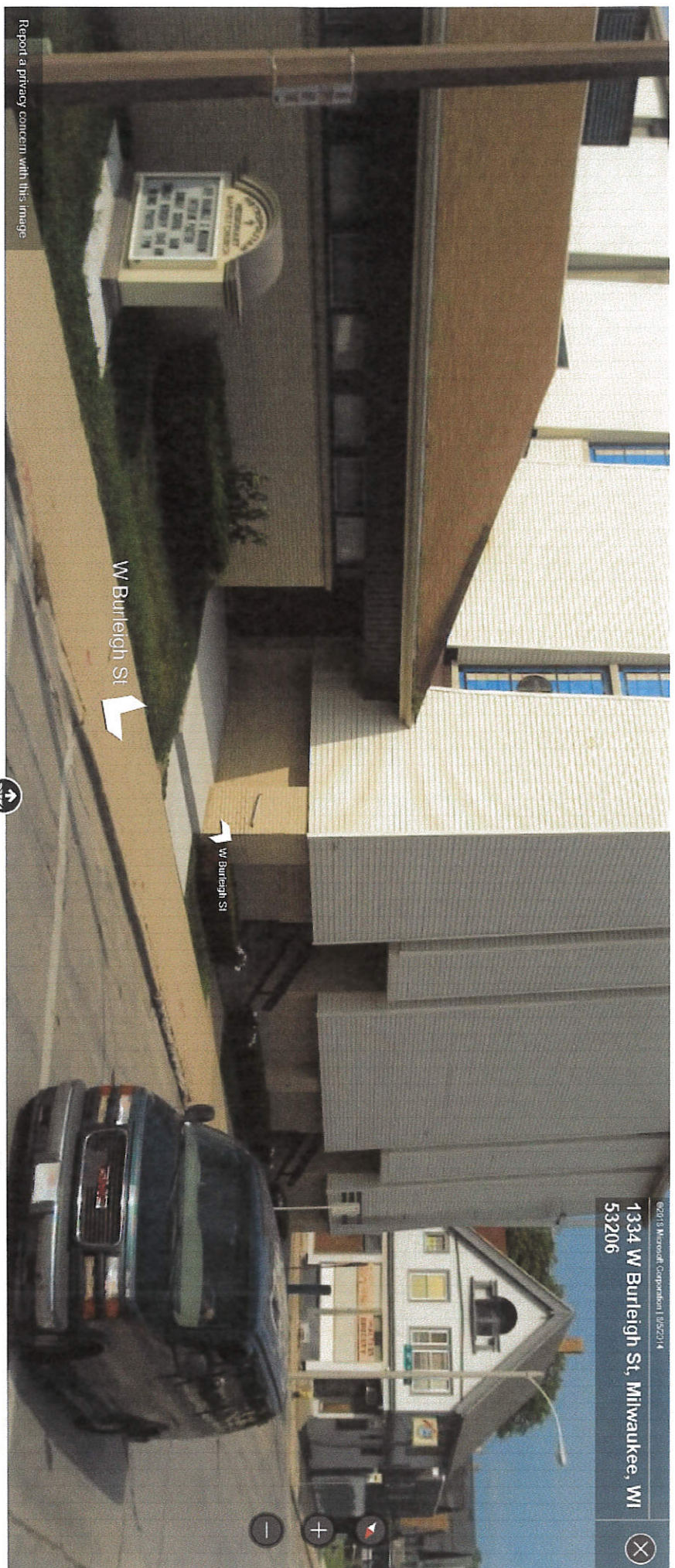
"I don't know what the reconstruction plans for the area are going to be. Houses are being replaced in scattered spots. I'm hoping to get some of those people."

"We try to put a lot of emphasis on old-fashioned biblical principles, about being responsible, and clean living, and being more concerned about trying to help the community."

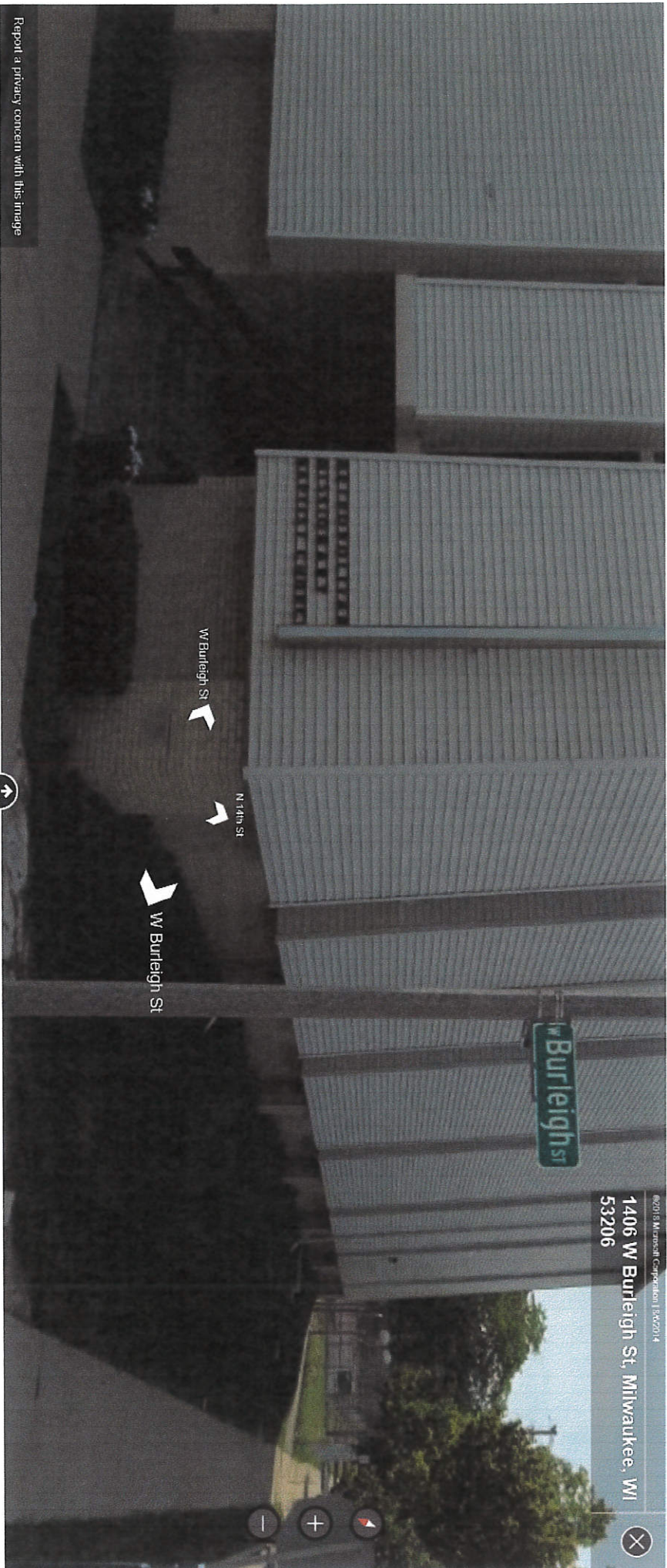
The Rev. Willie D. Wanzo Sr.,
minister at Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church



Traffic for 1345 W Burleigh St, Milwaukee, WI 53206



Traffic for 1345 W Burleigh St, Milwaukee, WI 53206



Receipt of Street Naming Fee

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Date: | 7/13/18 |
| Received Of: | Cathy D Wanzo |
| Received By: | LME |
| Check # (If Applicable): | 3013 |
| Amount Received | \$100.00 |