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July 2, 2004

Claretta "Mother Freedom" Simpson
Founder

Ms. Jeannetta Simpson - Robinson
Founder / CEO

Mr. Earl Hill Sr.
Chairman

Mr. Robert Spindell Jr.
Vice Chairman

Mr. Cy White
Business Committee

Mrs. Margaret A. Gutter
Public Relations Committee

Mr. Jerry Smith
Chairman
Public Relations Committee

Mr. Morris Brazil
Chairman
Personnel Committee

Mr. Michael Mayo Sr.
Chairman
Finance / Audit Committee

Attorney Barbara Franks
Personnel Committee

Mr. Leon D. Young
State Representative
Public Relations Committee

Jeannetta Robinson (Daughter of Claretta Simpson)
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Public Building/Streets Naming Citizen Advisory Committee
200 East Wells Street
City Hall, Room 205
Milwaukee, WI. 53202

Honorable Ladies & Gentleman of the Advisory Committee:

As a **45 year resident, homeowner, and daughter of a great civil right leader Claretta "Mother Freedom" Simpson**, I am respectfully requesting your support 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 currently at the age of **102 years old**. Thirty Four 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.

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**. We have also given a formal written 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 **Career Youth Development (which Claretta "Mother Freedom Simpson founded)**.

I believe you will have all the **City of Milwaukee Aldermen** support in this endeavor.

I have created a petition which was needed and obtained signatures of more than 50% of the homeowners of the 2900 block of North 10th Street between Locust and Chambers Street with their signatures indicating their acceptance and agreement. I then submitted the signed and notarized petition along with **Claretta Simpson's** biography to the **City Of Milwaukee Common Council** in accordance which meets the criteria outlined in section 118-3 of the Milwaukee code of ordinances. Based on the information received from Ms. Terry J. MacDonald of the City of Milwaukee's Common Council's City Clerks office the number of properties on the 2900 Block of North 10th street between Locust and Chambers Street, comes to 24 (twenty four), and we have obtained total of 13 valid individual homeowner signatures.

Regarding 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.*"

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.

To my knowledge I know for a fact of existing streets that run for more than 20 to 30 blocks, which have had name changes that only cover a small specific area. Here are four (4) that we are aware of for a fact.

- *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).*

I do not know the circumstances behind these streets having name changes for only several blocks on a street that runs the same as North 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. 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, 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, State Representative 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** has 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 he was Barrett was a **Congressman**, he was accessible, he helped lift through congressional recognition “**Mother Freedom’s**” Dream for freedom so now today we ask your positive support 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 members of the Public Building/Streets Naming Citizen Advisory Committee; Let the Freedom Bells Ring from the 2900 Block of North 10th Street. Claretta Simpson Way for The Entire 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.

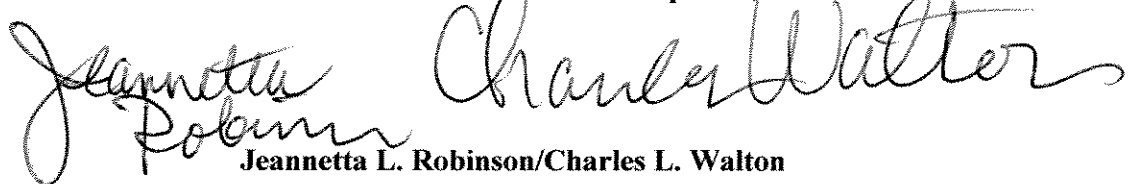
With **God’s** help, through faith and with prayer we, will overcome these obstacles and make a well deserved leader of our society that has been responsible for a multitude of changes in our city’s civil rights and nationally be rewarded this honor of having the **2900 Block of North 10th Street between 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, vote yes to this positive historical request.

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,


Jeannetta L. Robinson/Charles L. Walton

JLR/CLW/clw
Attachments:

CC: All Members of the Public Building/Streets Naming Citizen Advisory Committee.