



**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 Joseph J. Wilson  
Organization or Company William R. Stark Class of 2023  
Street Address 45820 Judd Rd City/State Belleville, MI Zip 48111  
Telephone 313-304-0172 Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email jwilsongroup@gmail.com

**2. Honorary Street Name Request**

Street name requested William R. Stark Avenue  
Location of proposed designation: (for example, West Main Street from North 12<sup>th</sup> Street to North 15<sup>th</sup> Street)  
W Atkinson Ave from North 16th Street to North 17th Street

**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  Date 1-5-2024  
Printed Name Joseph J. Wilson

William Stark was born on June 17, 1932 in St. Augustine, Florida the oldest city in the United States. He attended grade school there, where in the 4th grade sent a note to his crush, Bettye Jean Neal. In 1954 he received a Bachelor's Degree in Biology, with a minor in Chemistry from Florida A&M University. A proud American he happily served his country in the United States Army. After marriage he relocated to Milwaukee and earned an Associate Degree in Electronics and several technical certificates from Milwaukee Area Technical College. William was the first African American to study at St. Luke's Hospital to become a Medical Technologist. He worked with Dr. Derwin Lepley's surgical team to perform the first two open-heart surgeries. After 33 years with the VA hospital, he retired in 1993 as a supervisor of chemistry laboratories. William served as Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons, of the Jurisdiction of Wisconsin from 1984-88 and was actively involved with the Prince Hall Masonic Foundation and challenged them to increase their educational assistance to qualified students from \$1,500.00 to \$10,000.00 which was accomplished during his tenure as Grand Master. The Foundation continues and awards \$30,000.00 in scholarship at its Annual Award Banquet. As Grandmaster, Brother Stark initiated the first Joint affair involving Prince Hall Masons with the Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin for ambulatory patients, at the Veteran's Administration Center. In 1987 Governor Tommy Thompson invited Grand Master Stark and visiting Grand Masters from other jurisdictions to the Capitol.

A devote Christian, since 1957 and a member of St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church. He was Chairman of Men's Day in 1997, served on the Board of Stewards, and was chairman of the Membership Commission. He served as church trustee, Chairman of the Church Building Fund Committee, former choir member and usher board. Mr. Stark submitted five church sites for St. Mark A.M.E. to Pastor, Rev. Dr. Henderson Davis. One of the five sites; 1616 West Atkinson Avenue was selected "The Church of the Anvil."

A former board member of the Inner-City Council on alcohol and Drugs. He was the recipient of: Top Ladies of Distinction Award 1996, in recognition for outstanding accomplishment and service to the community. He received numerous awards for outstanding leadership from Prince Hall Masons and Citations from City of Milwaukee and state of Wisconsin. William was a board member of the American Society of Clinical Chemistry Technologist. He was elected to the first Equal Employment Opportunity Board at the VA Medical Center and first African American VA Credit Board member and first President. Under his guidance, the VA Credit Union went over the first one-million-dollar mark. Years after retiring he pursued a second career in mortuary, and in 2001 was a co-founder of Paradise Memorial Funeral home, until 2016.

After speaking with the current Pastor of St. Mark AME church located near the proposed street naming location. We both agree that Mr. Stark is very deserving of this honor and recognition and the location is where he labored for so many years is the best way to pay homage to this noble man. I humbly submit this request for your consideration.