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May 14, 1999

The Honorable Members
of the Common Council
City Hall, Room 205
200 E. Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Colleagues:

While our colleagues may be well-intentioned proposing to change the name of a portion of Chicago Street in the City of Milwaukee because it happens to intersect near the Summerfest grounds, it might be better to leave well enough alone.

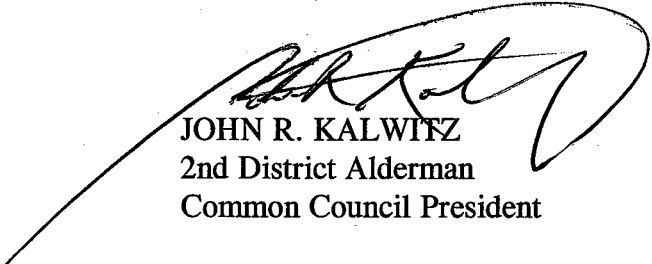
If nothing else, it speaks volumes about our diversity as a City. After all, Chicago means strong or powerful while Milwaukee means a meeting place by the river. What a beautiful marriage of two great American communities.

To remove even a portion of East Chicago Street from our street grid might not sit well with the Potawatomi tribe, who 5,000 years ago settled along the river they called Checagou, in what is now Chicago, IL.

Furthermore, it just so happens that Milwaukee Avenue is one of the major streets in the City of Chicago, which also extends itself well into the suburbs, with more than 20 miles of our city's name displayed through urban and suburban landscapes.

If the City of Chicago and some of its suburban communities want to retaliate on this name change idea, our losses would far exceed anything we could possibly do to those who call their community "my kind of town."

Sincerely



JOHN R. KALWITZ
2nd District Alderman
Common Council President