



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 Delores Williams

Organization or Company Holy Tabernacle William's Temple Church of God in Christ

Street Address 4232 N.24th Place City/State Milwaukee Zip 53209

Telephone 414 871 2929 Fax _____ Email deloreswilliam2929@att.net

2. Honorary Street Name Request

Street name requested Bishop Johnie C. Williams

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

North Teutonia Avenue from West Center Street to West Hadley 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 Delores Williams Date 10-1-2025

Printed Name Delores Williams

Re: Holy Tabernacle Williams Temple Church of God in Christ
2753 N. Teutonia Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53206

To whom it may concern, regarding the Honorary Street Name Application
September 30, 2025

The wife and family of Bishop J. C. Williams are requesting that Bishop J. C. Williams' honorary street signs be placed at the corners of North Teutonia/West Center and North Teutonia and West Hadley Streets

February 16th, 1922. Johnie C. Williams was born in Huntingdon, Tennessee. As a teenager, Johnie C. Williams fulfilled his passion for leaving Tennessee to pursue a vision of a better life in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He met and married Ruth Bassett of Gary, Indiana, and they purchased their first home. The Williams home became a refuge for Christian sojourners settling in Wisconsin in pursuit of a better life. Although he was gainfully employed at various Wisconsin companies, his life's mission was birthed at the nascence of his ministerial call in 1947, when he accepted God's call to the ministry. Elder Johnie C. Williams and Mother Ruth Williams founded Holy Tabernacle COGIC, which had humble beginnings in the living room of their home. The membership grew to twenty-five couples, which required the exploration of a larger place of worship. In 1950, He began a great mission ministry style of leadership at 537 West Vine Street. In 1965, the church membership purchased the building at 2753 N. Teutonia Avenue and renamed the church Williams Temple COGIC.

Holy Tabernacle Williams Temple COGIC was with this endless dedication to strengthening the fabric of our community that Bishop Johnie C. Williams became an advocate for affordable housing, income development, and stimulation of the local economy by cultivating human, social, and physical capital for families. Under Pastor Williams' leadership, innovative initiatives were instituted, which included an outreach ministry for the relief of the homeless, while continuing to provide needed support for families that migrated from southern U.S. cities to Milwaukee. The institution of the various benevolent ministries that supplied food, clothing, shelter, spiritual counseling, and finance to countless new families for over twenty years was expanded at Holy Tabernacle Williams Temple. The church membership grew from this early mission ministry, as a direct result of these transitional ministries that would vanguard their parishioners and stabilize the surrounding community.

In 1977, he was appointed COGIC Jurisdictional Bishop of the Wisconsin 3rd Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. In the early 1990's Bishop Williams and several COGIC Bishops went to Washington, D.C., to the White House. They met and prayed with U.S. President Bill Clinton. In his later years, he received a congratulatory letter from President Barack Obama. Bishop Williams has mentored many pastors and church leaders through his anointed, competent, and effective leadership. Through the years, Pastors and Bishops continued to call on and contact him, requesting his knowledge and interpretation of the biblical scriptures. Bishop Johnie C. Williams was recognized in the Whole Truth Magazine as one of the 100 most influential pastors in the Church of God in Christ.

In 2017, a historic and unprecedented milestone was achieved when he was celebrated for 70 years as the pastor of Holy Tabernacle/Williams Temple and 40 years as Wisconsin Jurisdictional Bishop which distinguished Bishop Johnie C. Williams as the longest serving cleric and active pastor in the history of Wisconsin without respect to denomination or ethnicity, shepherding one church longer than any other pastor in the state of Wisconsin. For over half of his 95 years of life, the Holy Tabernacle Williams Temple COGIC, located at 2753 N. Teutonia Avenue, was a staple of the central city Milwaukee community. At last, thanks be unto God for giving us His ninety-five years of long life. He went home to be with God on December 2, 2017. Mrs. Delores Williams (his widow) and Lillian Lawrence (his daughter) continue to provide opportunities for young people to grow academically and obtain financial assistance in reaching educational goals through the Bishop J.C. Williams Scholarship Fund, which he founded in 1978. The family of Bishop Johnie C. Williams requests that an honorary street sign named Bishop Johnie C. Williams be placed on Teutonia Avenue and Center Street to Teutonia Avenue and Hadley Street to commemorate the life and works of this great leader of Christendom in the Milwaukee community.

Sincerely,

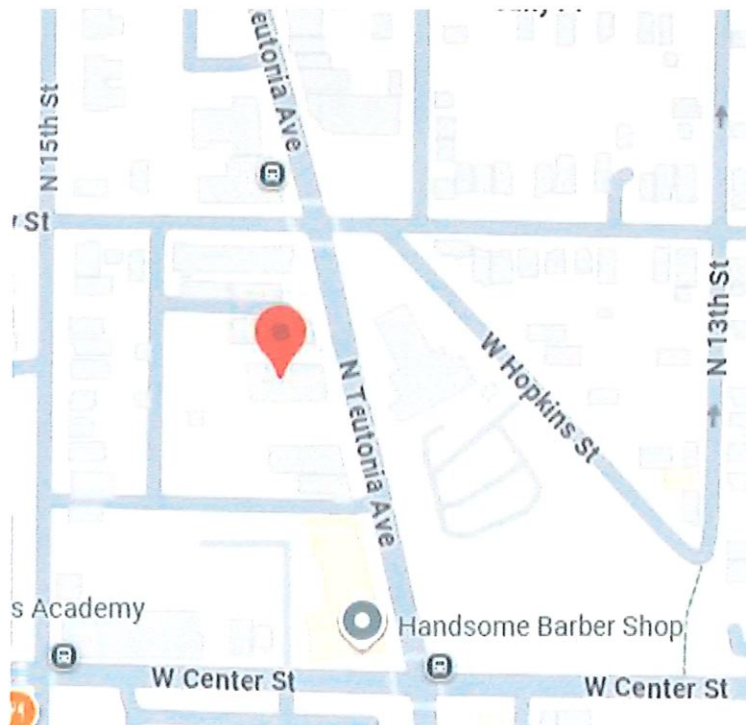
Mrs. Delores Williams, widow of Bishop Johnie C. Williams

Mrs. Lillian Lawrence and Mr. Ron Lawrence, daughter and son-in-law of Bishop Johnie C. Williams

Ms. Tiffini Lawrence, granddaughter of Bishop Johnie C. Williams

PICTURE AND MAP OF WILLIAMS TEMPLE COGIC

2753 N. Teutonia Avenue.



Receipt of Street Naming Fee

Date:	10/6/25
Received Of:	Delores Williams
Received By:	LME
Check # (If Applicable):	10637
Amount Received	\$100.00