



Department of Public Works  
Infrastructure Services Division

Jeffrey S. Polenske, P.E.  
Commissioner of Public Works

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City Engineer

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January 8, 2021

To the Public Works Committee

Subject: Renaming of the City of Milwaukee owned building known as the Milwaukee Fire Department Administration Building located at 711 West Wells Street to Alonzo Robinson Fire Department Headquarters

Dear Honorable Members:

This letter is in reply to an application dated October 12, 2020 regarding a request to rename the City of Milwaukee owned building known as the Milwaukee Fire Department Administration Building located at 711 West Wells Street to Alonzo Robinson Fire Department Headquarters.

Chapter 113-3 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances provides the guidelines to consider when reviewing official municipal facility naming requests. The guidelines provided in the code have been reviewed and the following comments are offered.

The application and proposal was submitted by Kim A. Robinson Sr. Mr. Robinson explained that his father, Alonzo Robinson, has the distinction of being the first Black to become a licensed and registered architect with the State of Wisconsin and for quite a while he was the only registered African American architect in the state. At the age of 33, Robinson, who at the time worked as an architectural designer in Milwaukee's Bureau of Bridges and Buildings, earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Howard University in Washington D.C. Robinson and his wife had four children-the eldest Wayne, followed in his father's footsteps and was once a designer for the Kohler Company. Another son, Kim, is a retired Milwaukee Police Officer.

The sign will be provided and maintained by The City of Milwaukee, Bridges and Buildings. If a sign needs to be replaced in the future, Bridges and Buildings is to be notified of the missing or damaged sign. Department of Public Works will incur no costs associated with installation and maintenance of the signs.

It is estimated that the cost for a sign will be approximately \$15,000. The applicant has said they would fund raise to cover the cost of this sign. Provided that this renaming request for the City of Milwaukee building located at 711 West Wells Street meets the established design criteria and that the Department of Public Works does not incur any costs as a result of this action, we can support this resolution.

Sincerely,

Samir Amin, P.E.  
City Engineer

Jeffrey Polenske, P.E.  
Commissioner of Public Works

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