



Department of Public Works  
Infrastructure Services Division

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June 9, 2025

To the Public Works Committee

Subject: Honorary Street Name Request – John J. Williams  
North 14th Street from West Capitol Drive to West Olive Street

Dear Honorable Members:

This letter is in reply to an application dated May 27, 2025, regarding a request for an honorary street name of John J. Williams on North 14th Street from West Capitol Drive to West Olive Street.

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

John J. Williams was a valued member of the community in many respects. He completed his education at Milwaukee Teachers College, but could not get a job in education because MPS didn't hire Black teachers in the 1920's. Then, he moved to Oklahoma to teach high school. In 1942, he returned to Milwaukee and started his own newspaper company, The Milwaukee Globe. He worked at Tannenbaum Tannery and was the first Black taxicab driver at Yellow Cab Company, where he also helped many Black women become taxi drivers. He also worked at the Post Office for more than 40 years until he retired for the first time in 1967. Back to work, on the State Higher Educational Aids Board, he helped students to find scholarships; and at the Milwaukee Urban League, as manpower director, he assisted many people in finding jobs and kept helping students to find opportunities. He believed in the power of work and education. For this reason, at 70 years old, he got his master's degree in counseling at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, where he was also hired to counsel the students. When he retired, he moved back to Milwaukee, where he volunteered for committees and helped students pursue their education.

The request to honor Mr. Williams with an honorary street name of "John J. Williams" includes 16 letters and spaces. The letter size of the honorary street name will be sized to fit the standard honorary street sign.

Three (3) blue honorary street signs will be needed. Please refer to the attached map showing where the honorary street name signs will be located. The petitioner may choose to furnish the honorary street signs, but they must be fabricated to established City standards. The City can fabricate the signs at \$50 each. In either case, the City will install the honorary street signs at a cost of \$50 per sign. The petitioner is to deposit \$150 to the City if they furnish the signs or \$300 if the City fabricates and installs the signs. If a sign needs to be replaced in the future, the City is to be notified of the missing or damaged sign and the petitioner is to cover the cost to fabricate and mount the sign as described above. The City's cost to fabricate and install future signs is subject to change.

North 14th Street will remain the official street name so addresses will not change.

Sincerely,

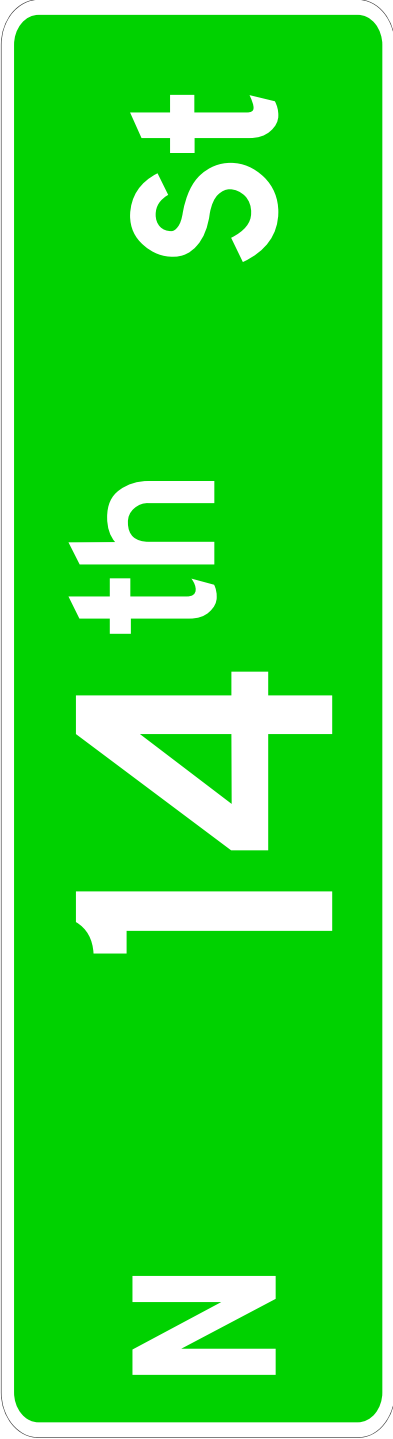
Kevin J. Muhs, PE, AICP  
City Engineer

YYM/pc  
*YYM*

Attachments

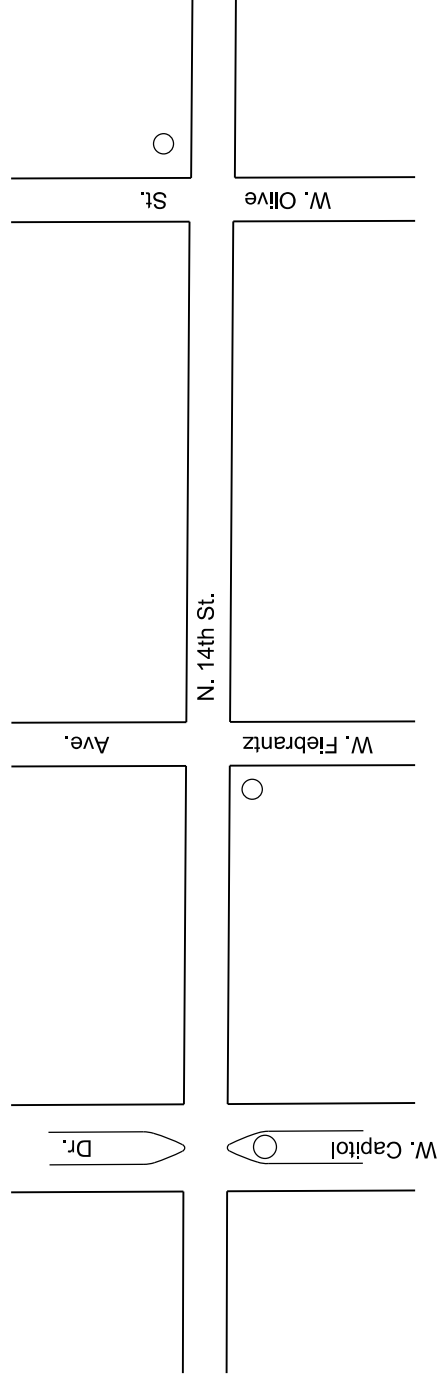


**Honorary Street Name Request:**  
**John J. Williams**  
**N. 14th St. from**  
**W. Capitol Dr. to W. Olive St.**



<b>City of Milwaukee</b> DPW - Infrastructure Services Central Drafting & Records		
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# North 14th Street from West Capitol Drive to West Olive Street



○ - Location of street signs where honorary street name of John J. Williams will be mounted.

**City of Milwaukee**  
DPW - Infrastructure Services  
Central Drafting & Records

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DATE:

5/30/2025