

Marvin E. Pratt
Acting Mayor, City of Milwaukee

February 26, 2004

Mr. Ronald Leonhardt
City Clerk
City Hall
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

**Re: Renaming of the 2900 Block of North 10th Street
to Claretta Simpson Way**

Dear Mr. Leonhardt:

I am writing to request that you take the steps necessary under Milwaukee Ordinance 113-3 to effectuate the renaming of the 2900 block of North 10th Street to Claretta Simpson Way. The new name will be in honor of Mrs. Claretta Simpson, affectionately known as "Mother Freedom." Mrs. Simpson is a nationally known civil rights activist and the founder of Career Youth Development, Incorporated.

Attached please find the following items necessary to expediting this request:

- A sketch highlighting the area of North 10th Street that will be renamed.
- A biography of Mrs. Simpson and the rationale behind renaming the street after her.
- A petition signed by more than 50 percent of the property owners in the area affected by this name change.

If you need any additional information regarding this request, do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


MARVIN E. PRATT
Acting Mayor

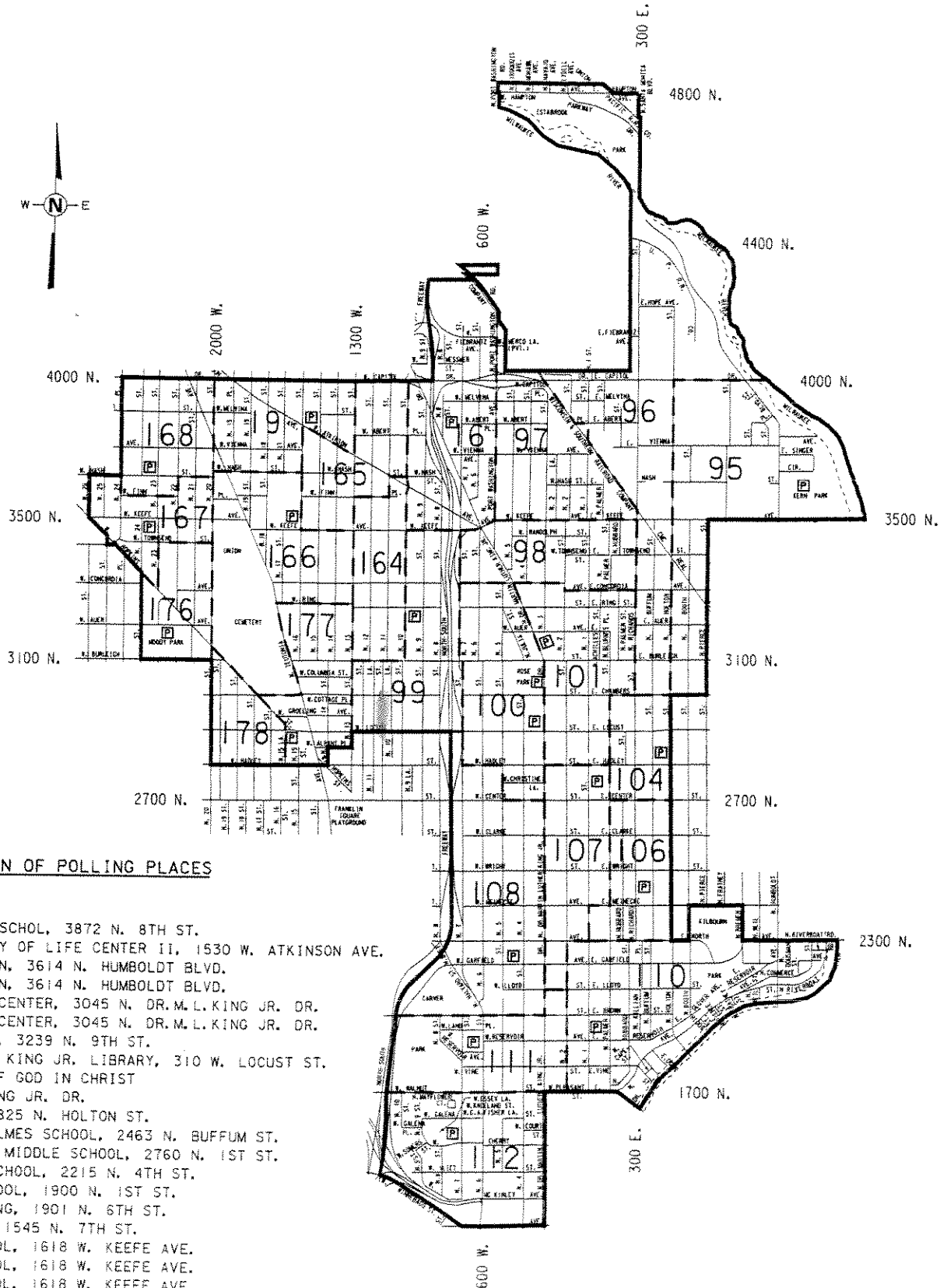
Enclosures

Cc: Alderwoman Marlene Johnson-Odom
Andria DeToro-Balda
Jeannetta Simpson-Robinson

6th ALDERMANIC DISTRICT

ALDERMANIC DISTRICT EFFECTIVE SPRING 2004

WARDS EFFECTIVE FALL 2002



LOCATION OF POLLING PLACES

WARD

- 16- GREEN BAY AVENUE SCHOL, 3872 N. 8TH ST.
- 19- ST. MARK'S QUALITY OF LIFE CENTER II, 1530 W. ATKINSON AVE.
- 95- KERN PARK PAVILION, 3614 N. HUMBOLDT BLVD.
- 96- KERN PARK PAVILION, 3614 N. HUMBOLDT BLVD.
- 97- ROSE PARK SENIOR CENTER, 3045 N. DR.M.L.KING JR. DR.
- 98- ROSE PARK SENIOR CENTER, 3045 N. DR.M.L.KING JR. DR.
- 99- LAFOLLETTE SCHOOL, 3239 N. 9TH ST.
- 100- DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. LIBRARY, 310 W. LOCUST ST.
- 101- EBENEZER CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
3132 N. DR.M.L.KING JR. DR.
- 104- HOLTON TERRACE, 2825 N. HOLTON ST.
- 106- OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES SCHOOL, 2463 N. BUFFUM ST.
- 107- MALCOLM X ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL, 2760 N. 1ST ST.
- 108- GARFIELD AVENUE SCHOOL, 2215 N. 4TH ST.
- 110- PALMER STREET SCHOOL, 1900 N. 1ST ST.
- 111- LAPHAM PARK HOUSING, 1901 N. 6TH ST.
- 112- HILLSIDE TERRACE, 1545 N. 7TH ST.
- 164- KEEFE AVENUE SCHOOL, 1618 W. KEEFE AVE.
- 165- KEEFE AVENUE SCHOOL, 1618 W. KEEFE AVE.
- 166- KEEFE AVENUE SCHOOL, 1618 W. KEEFE AVE.
- 167- ST. JAMES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 3438 N. 24TH ST.
- 168- BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SCHOOL, 2308 W. NASH ST.
- 176- AUER AVENUE PLAYGROUND FIELDHOUSE, 2221 W. AUER AVE.
- 177- HOPKINS STREET SCHOOL, 1503 W. HOPKINS ST.
- 178- HOPKINS STREET SCHOOL, 1503 W. HOPKINS ST.

PETITION

WE the undersigned residents and property owners on North 10th Street in the (2900 block), Formally request that the City Of Milwaukee would agree to rename North 10th Street (2900 block) in the city of Milwaukee.

We formally request that the 2900 block be changed to Mother Freedom Simpson Drive or Street, here in the city of Milwaukee.

Done this Saturday February 7, 2004.

SIGNATURE	NAME	ADDRESS
1. Jeannette Robinson	JEANNETTE ROBINSON	2916 N 10 th St
2. Jeannette Robinson	JEANNETTE ROBINSON	2916A N 10 th St.
3. Yusef J. Eid	Yusef J. Eid	2900 - N - 10 th ST
4. Charlotte Wilkins	Charlotte Wilkins	2968 N 10 th St.
5. Melvin Wilkins	Melvin Wilkins	2941 N 10 th St
6. Eloise Lockett	Eloise Lockett	2923 N 10 th Street
7. Elis Longo	ELIM LONGO	2978 N 10 th ST
8. Kenneth P. Peary	KENNETH P. PEARY	2926 N 10 th ST
9. Ruth Owens	Ruth Owens	2901 N. 10 th ST.
10. Blanton Owens	Blanton Owens	2901 N. 10 th ST.
11. Joseph R. Peters	Joseph R. Peters	2959 N 10 th St
12. John Lane	John Lane	2940 N. 10 th ST. 251201 N 10th St

A TRIBUTE TO A GREAT LADY AND ICON OF TRUE AMERICAN HISTORY

Ms. Claretta "Mother Freedom" Simpson

Founder of Career Youth Development, Inc.

Ms. Claretta Simpson, a nationally known, highly respected civil rights leader and a dedicated Christian was born on November 28, 1901 in the small, country town of Smedes, Mississippi. Not having the convenience of our modern day hospital facilities that the "space age" families now take for granted, Ms. Simpson was delivered in her home to this world by a mid-wife.

Ms. Simpson who is known locally and nationally as "Mother Freedom" has spent all of her 100 years in service to God and mankind. Ms. Simpson began her civil rights work long before the days of the great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She is a modern day Harriet Tubman who started working for justice and civil rights for her fellowman and woman with Dr. T.R. M. Howard of Mount Bayou, Mississippi. Dr. Howard was the predecessor of Dr. King.

During this period of time she put her life on the line many, many times. She was a initial and integral part of the "underground" N.A.A.C.P. Literally riding hidden under the covers of horse drawn wagons to secret N.A.A.C.P. meetings. Because frankly speaking, during that period of history in the south, racism and the Ku Klux Klan and other entities were prevalent and would kill, maim or hang participants of such a "freedom movement". But having no fear in her heart, "Mother Freedom" bravely participated anyway at her life's risk, for what she felt would bring justice and equality to those who were not rightfully obtaining it. She was the essence and epitome of the term "trailblazer".

She basically participated in "every phase" of the Civil Rights Movement. She was a part of every major march that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spearheaded. She was involved in the Birmingham, Alabama march where she was bitten by the dogs and thrown into jail. She was involved with Dr. King in Detroit, Michigan where she was literally ran over and trampled by the Police Officers who were mounted on horses and was sprayed by high powered water hoses. Still she prevailed and continued her quest as an advocate for the downtrodden, those without a voice in the American justice and civil rights system. She was without fear and time and time again called on God to provide her strength, wisdom and direction. With God on her side she continued on her journey of freedom for all. Ms. Simpson was some kind of a lady!

She protested the injustice that took place with the charges surrounding the Emmitt Till case in Mississippi. She was there with her grandson Charles "Butch" Walton propped on her shoulders when she heard Dr. King give his now famous, "I Have A Dream" speech in Washington, D.C.

"Mother Freedom" was involved in the movement with H. Rapp Brown, Kwame Ture (Stokely Carmichael) and his student movement, where we first heard the words "Black Power" coined. She was there standing up for freedom of speech, empowerment and civil rights for the economically poor and disadvantaged of our nation.

She was heavily involved in all of the Milwaukee School Board marches concerning busing along with Attorney Lloyd Barbee. She marched for open housing with Father Groppi as well.

Just recently in the summer of '97 she was one of the leaders of Career Youth Development's Victory Over Violence March & Rally held here in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In the Year 2001, she continues to be a strong voice and advocate for the most in need.

"Mother Freedom" along with her daughter, Jeannetta Robinson were the co-founders of Career Youth Development, Inc. a 31 year old, non-profit, multi-service, social service agency that has over 20 different programs designed to meet the needs of the community and a staff of approximately 100 people. C.Y.D. was founded in 1970, as a response to this community's social service needs. They did not start C.Y.D. by writing a grant. "Mother Freedom" funded C.Y.D. out of her own money and operated the agency out of her own little back house because she loved the youth and families who needed her assistance.

This organization that she founded has been recognized by Congress and President Bill Clinton as a model agency. "Mother Freedom" stated that, "I wanted to develop a community based agency that would last forever, as a testimony that God will always provide and have a love-in-action center for the youth and families of this community". Therefore it was only fitting that our Child Care Institute for adolescents for male youth, ages 12-17 be named after her, "The Claretta Simpson House". She is truly a phoneme, an icon and a part of our true American history. She too can be heard singing the words of our famous patriotic song, "My County Tis Of Thee, Sweet Land Of Liberty, Of Thee I Sing..."

That's the essence of this great American lady. She continues without hesitation to do her part for the most in need of our community as we all strive toward achieving the American Dream.

Written by: Jeannetta Robinson, Co-Founder/Executive Director, Career Youth Development, Inc. and James Nelson, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director, Career Youth Development, Inc.