



**Greetings, City of Milwaukee Mayor, Common Council President, Common Council Board Members, Public Works Committee Members, Street Re-naming Committee and City Leaders at Large**

I am writing this letter to request the renaming and celebratory designation be given to Mrs. Nevada Davis with the 4000-4440 Block of North 14<sup>th</sup> Street from West Capitol Drive to West Cornell Street being renamed to “Nevada Davis Way.” This very appropriate recognition will honor the life, legacy and unfeigned contributions of Mrs. Nevada Davis. Nevada lived on this street for more than forty-six years (4131 N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street) until health challenges ultimately prompted her earthly journey’s completion at the ripe age of eighty-four. Mrs. Davis was a Woman’s Rights Activist, Labor Union Liaison and proud employee for United Way of Greater Milwaukee for more than thirty-three years. She was a true champion for social services and community outreach efforts. In essence she was a community unsung hero and trailblazer that served with many noted friends and community leaders such as Sheila Cochran, Marvin Pratt, Martha Love and the like.

Mrs. Nevada Davis was born in Columbia, Mississippi but later relocated to Milwaukee, Wisconsin; she began her community work as a founding and charter member of the Community Baptist Church of Greater Milwaukee along with her Sainted Mother, Mother Jessie L. Newsom. Nevada was responsible for finding the current edifice where Community Baptist Church of Greater Milwaukee is presently located. She later helped to establish the Community Credit Union where financial literacy efforts and banking opportunities were extended to the Milwaukee Community at large. She found great joy in helping people to ascend to their fullest potential by providing them with resources and educational astuteness.

Initially as a proud employee of Briggs and Stratton Corporation, Nevada over came barriers within a male dominated industry. She quickly became engaged with leadership roles within the company and its labor union. Nevada was respected and called upon for sound advice while ultimately serving as a bridge between management and its employees. In the broader Greater Milwaukee Community’s scope, Nevada later established a food service restaurant in Milwaukee, Wisconsin affectionately named “Ma’s Country Kitchen.” As a result of her Southern Hospitality and Mississippian sagacity she was able to employ local Milwaukee citizens while sharing her wonderful southern cuisine recipes. As an entrepreneur and minority owned business establisher she found a lot of joy in serving the community.

However, Nevada was not satisfied because she saw the need for support and assistance was so great for community members within Milwaukee. She then pursued beginning her career as a

Community Referral Specialist for United Way of Greater Milwaukee. Nevada's Thirty-three-year tenure encompassed many initiatives and community outreach and social service programming constructs. She helped to connect those in need with resources often times spearheading food pantry initiatives, clothing drives, school supply give backs, toys for children, Christmas tree give a ways, substance abuse recovery program consultations and whatever else she could do to assist community members through keenly providing resources that they so desperately needed. Nevada also promoted community engagement through blood drive services, voter registration drives and a plethora of social services and community service initiatives which were all focused to aid and assist community members.

Moreover, Nevada was a Woman's Rights Advocate. She was the first African American and First Woman to be selected as the Associate Director of the AFL-CIO within the Labor Department Division. She was also the first African American woman to be elected by the National Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) representing the entire State of Wisconsin. Nevada served on various boards throughout the community including the Neighborhood Platform Committee, The Southside Wellness Project, Black Women's Network, Welfare Advocacy Center, Speakers Bureau of Women Reaching Women, Milwaukee Council on Alcoholism, National Black Alcoholism Council, Milwaukee Chapter and UWM-Extension 4-H Committee, a member of AFSCME Local 1954. Nevada hosted a televised communal program on the local MATA Community Media-Milwaukee platform, where she regularly shared valuable, viable and available resources for community members. Moreover, she initiated a plethora of round table confabulations and instituted communal initiatives throughout the City of Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin.

Nevada Davis was the celebrated recipient of the Werner J. Schaefer Community Services Award which she was awarded by the United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha. She also was the recipient of a number of awards, accolades and recognitions. Admittedly, it must be noted that the majority of Nevada's work was completed under the radar without a lot of fanfare, notoriety and publicity. Nevada was a humbled humanitarian and trailblazing pioneer.

Mrs. Nevada Davis, earnestly fought to help eradicate poverty and extend life to the least of them within our community while promoting unity and resourceful opportunities. Nevada made enormous contributions to the Milwaukee Community through her selfless and unselfish efforts.

It is important to note that on the very street (North 14<sup>th</sup> Street) where she lived her grandson was tragically murdered in 2003 as the result of a senseless act of violence which acclaimed the life of such a humbled, innocent and bright youth. Although his cold case murder has never been solved, Nevada continued to use her passion, charismatic and compassionate persona to continue to do the work of a humanitarian in order to ensure her community had the tools needed to thrive while promoting unifying constructs that were critical in order to promote life, wholeness and the pursuit of happiness all while disseminating the resources needed to a community that she so desperately loved and valued.

It is because of these many reasons and more that we would like the street Mrs. Nevada Davis lived on to be officially re-named in her honor: "Nevada Davis Way." Indeed, Nevada Davis had

a way of making every person she encountered know that they were loved, valued and supported. She didn't allow the status quo objectives to prevent her from ensuring that those that wanted better in life had the resources necessary to make the positive strides needed. She reminded people that they were valuable and more than capable of making the essential right choices with loving support and radical commitment. I am asking the various committee members and leaders to support us in this measure of re-naming North 14<sup>th</sup> Street; that we may appreciate the wonderful work and labor of love exhibited through the many communal efforts of Mrs. Nevada Davis. What an amazing example, woman's rights activist, social services humanitarian and committed Milwaukee resident. Truly that was: "Nevada Davis Way!"

**Humbly Submitted**

**With much love and appreciation,**

**Alex L. Erdmann, M.Div., BBA,  
Chairman of Nevada Davis's Street Re-Naming Coalition**

