

June 23, 2023

City Hall, Room 205
200 E. Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

RE: Renaming of the Park on 30th and Cawker

To whom it may concern:

We are writing to support the application to rename the park on 30th & Cawker in honor of Al Jarreau. A native Milwaukeean, Jarreau is worthy of recognition because of his considerable achievements as a student, counselor, musician, and singer.

Alwin Lopez Jarreau (1940-2017) was born and raised in Milwaukee. Throughout his childhood he was active singing for his church, school groups, and local bands. In addition to developing his talent for music, he was a fine student and athlete. He attended Lincoln High School, where he was student council president. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Ripon college, where he also played basketball. Later, he earned a master's degree in vocational rehabilitation from the University of Iowa and practiced as a rehabilitation counselor for people with disabilities.

His passion for music eventually pulled him away from this career, and he became a full-time musician in his late twenties. Over the next 40+ years, he would win 7 Grammy Awards and receive another 12 nominations. He is known for his innovative vocal stylings in pop, R&B, and jazz, and also for the positive messages communicated in his lyrics. He passed away unexpectedly in 2017.

It is for these accomplishments that Al Jarreau should be honored as requested. Parks are places where kids can dream and develop their talents, skills, and abilities. Jarreau's legacy serves as a model to aspire to, and naming a park for him would introduce him to future generations of Milwaukee youth.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely:
Amani United Board Members

Elizabeth Brown
President

Barbara Smith
Housing & Economic Development Chair