City of Milwaukee

HONORARY STREET NAME SIGN APPLICATION

City Hall, Room 205
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

PLEASE NOTE: A $100 PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM
(Checks should be made payable to "City Treasurer")

1. Applicant information:

Applicant's Name Muriel Johnson Eckert and Lovell Johnson Jr.

Organization or Company St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church

Street Address 1616 West Atkinson Avenue City State Milwaukee, WI. Zip 53206

Telephone 708-359-6505; 414-562-8030 Fax _____ Email STMARKAME.ORG; eckertjohnson@sbcglobal.net

2. Honorary Street Name Request

Street name requested Reverend Dr. Lovell Johnson Sr. ~~and Mrs. Marguerite DeSleet Johnson~~

Location of proposed designation: (for example, West Main Street from North 12th Street to North 15th Street)

16th Street starting from Capitol Drive one block south to West Atkinson Ave. and one block south to West Vienna. Two blocks in all.

3. Required Submittals:

- Refer to Chapter 113-3, Milwaukee Code of Ordinances (attached)
- A *typed* statement containing no fewer than **500 words** describing the significance of the person, place, or event being honored. The statement should indicate why a particular section of street has been requested for the honorary designation.

4. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT:

My application consists of the following items necessary to complete the application. Please check:

☑ $100 fee (check made payable to "City Treasurer").
☑ Completed Application Form.
☑ Autobiography or statement regarding the person, place, or event being honored.

Signature Muriel Eckert Date June 17, 2024

Printed Name Muriel Eckert

Biographical Statement for

The Reverend Dr. Lovell Johnson and Marguerite DeSleet Johnson

This petition is issued and tendered, on behalf of the family of the late Reverend Doctor Lovell and Mrs. Marguerite Jane DeSleet Johnson, Sr., former pastoral team to The Saint Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1616 West Atkinson Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 1964 to 1991. It was July 10th, 1991 when the Reverend and Mrs. Lovell Johnson Sr., while on an evangelistic Mission venture in Mobile, Alabama, both perished in a plane crash just outside of Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Alabama Airport. Their exemplary record of service to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the nation remains as a tribute and legacy to their untiring service to humanity with in-roads dotting the African continent where his daughter, Muriel Eckert and son-in-law Reverend R. James Eckert serve South Africa in ministry and health services. Muriel serves as an RN Care Manager for a Managed Care organization in Milwaukee. The eldest child born to the union of the Reverend and Mrs. Johnson, Sr., Attorney Lovell Johnson Jr. serves in the office of the District Attorney, Milwaukee.

The Reverend Lovell Johnson, Sr., with an exceptional ministry service portfolio was assigned to serve the Saint Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1964 during the term of Henry W. Maier, City of Milwaukee Mayor and spanned to the Civic service of Mayor John Norquist. In earlier years, Reverend Johnson served as a Message Center Chief and Chaplain's Assistant in the United States Armed Services. He achieved the rank of Tech 4 Sergeant and was honorably discharged in March 1946. He relocated to Chicago, Illinois area serving as assistant to the Reverend Dr. Leon Bailey at the Institutional A.M.E. Church. He entered Wilberforce University, Xenia, Ohio and matriculated with the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology. In pursuit of Theological Education, he enrolled and matriculated with the Bachelor of Divinity Degree in Systematic Theology at Payne Seminary in Xenia, Ohio and continued graduate education at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa. Prior to his arrival in Milwaukee, Reverend Johnson also served as assistant Pastor of Bethel A.M.E Church Detroit, Michigan; Pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church Des Moines, Iowa; Pastor of St. Paul A.M.E. Church Springfield, Illinois; Pastor of St. Peter's A.M.E. Church

Minneapolis, Minnesota. In 1986 Shorter College of Little Rock, Arkansas awarded him the Doctor of Divinity degree.

In Milwaukee, The Saint Mark AME Church was relocated, under the leadership of the Reverend Lovell Johnson Sr. to accommodate expansion of the freeway and in a second instance prior to the building of the present edifice dubbed: "The Church of the Anvil." The present church building is a shrine to the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The mortgage was liquidated 7 years ahead of schedule during Reverend Johnson's administration. The St. Mark AME Church became, long before the popularity of the "mega churches", a major meeting place and space. Pastor Johnson's reach into the community was felt in various capacities. He served as member and chair of the Milwaukee Planning Commission; Wisconsin Religious Broadcast Commission; Board of Directors of Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC-GM); President of the Anvil Housing Corporation. Within the denominational and ecclesiastical structures his service entailed: The Chicago Conference Board of Examiners; Saint Paul/Milwaukee District Conference Committees on Finance and Ministerial orders; Representative to the Consultation on Church Union (COCU); Wilberforce University Board of Directors and Executive Council where he served as Chaplain; Member, Payne Theological Seminary Board of Directors; Board of Directors, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); and an active advocate for Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) among others.

Reverend Johnson married Marguerite Jane DeSleet in 1953. Mrs. Johnson, who was born in Des Moines, Iowa graduated from Drake University with Honors, being awarded the Bachelors of Education degree. She continued graduate education at Columbia University of New York with emphasis in Learning Disability and Emotionally Impaired Curriculum. She returned to Des Moines, Iowa and was retained as the third African-American Educator hired by the Des Moines School System. With their marriage, they pioneered both in Civic, Social, Political, Legal, and Spiritual arenas. Mrs. Johnson was Pastor Johnson's constant help-mate, wife extraordinaire and mother to Lovell Jr. and Muriel. Mrs. Johnson's legacy of faith, which shaped her life, was evident as she traversed and bridged church and community. She remained actively involved in Missionary Work, Christian Education Enterprises, Parent Teacher Organizations and several volunteer groups. She assisted her husband's ministry at St. Mark

Church by serving as Director of Christian Education, Missionary Advisor and President of the Geraldine Bradford Missionary Society. She served as 4th Episcopal District AME Promotion and Missionary Education Director and Second –Vice President. In an effort to uplift and promote the significance of the inner city, she started the Milwaukee Central City Tour of Homes. The St. Mark Church parsonage that was located on Palmer and Wright streets was a featured home in the tour. At the time of her untimely death, she was First Vice-President of the 4th Episcopal District Women's Missionary Society and a Connectional/Global Life Member. She held membership in the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated; The Milwaukee Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta; A Life Member of Kappa Delta Pi Society; The Milwaukee County Ethics Board; The Mayor's Beautification Committee; Church Women United; and served as an Accredited observer at the 1986 World Methodist Conference which convened in Nairobi, Kenya. Her literature and literary contributions include The Chicago Conference Board of Christian Education; Connectional (Global) Director of Vacation Bible Schools, and writer, publisher of several treatises, Sunday School Lessons for Christian Education and plays for the Christian Community. She enjoyed travel with her husband and children, during her lifetime.

Upon the demise of the Johnson's a residential complex was erected and named in Milwaukee, Johnson Square, in their honor, and serves the community to this day.

For these and several unlisted reasons we recommend their names for Honorary Street naming. The particular streets identified for naming have been requested because they are located in the vicinity of St. Mark Church where Reverend and Mrs. Johnson labored and served for 27 years.

Submitted June 17, 2024.

Receipt of Street Naming Fee

Date:	7/17/24
Received Of:	Muriel Eckert
Received By:	LME
Check # (If Applicable):	427
Amount Received	$100.00