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VIA E-MAIL

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City of Milwaukee Common Council
Public Works Committee
200 E. Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

RE: North 4th Street Re-naming: Vel R. Phillips Avenue.

Dear Public Works Committee,

With this letter, I express my full support for Substitute Ordinance 180127: the re-naming of Milwaukee's current North 4th Street, from West St. Paul Avenue to West Capitol Drive, to Vel R. Phillips Ave. The Alderpersons/proponents of this legislation have well summarized my mother's career as a student, public servant, and civil rights pioneer. I will add simply that her social significance has rebounded in recent years through the Wisconsin Public Television production and airing of her 2015 documentary, Vel Phillips: Dream Big Dreams. Not a week passes without a request for her appearance, by telephone, in person, or via Skype, from some Wisconsin grade school class. And each one seeks her story from its source.

Unfortunately, my mother's life has passed. But, Committee, her time remains, now. Especially in today's challenging climate of race relations, this proposed re-naming will suffuse with permanence Milwaukee's commemoration of its home-grown civil rights icon, a woman—Vel R. Phillips—who fought for the freedoms not only of Milwaukee's minority citizens, but for all of its citizens.

Please, do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns, or if you seek testimonial input.

Sincerely yours,



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