



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 Daneil Cross
Organization or Company Metcalfe Park Community Bridges Inc
Street Address 3624 W. North Ave City/State Milwaukee, WI Zip 53208
Telephone 414-238-5676 Fax _____ Email dcross@metcalfepark.org

2. Honorary Street Name Request

Street name requested Ralph H. Metcalfe

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

34th Street from North Ave to Center St.

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 Daneil Cross Date 07/20/2021

Printed Name _____

Ralph Harold Metcalfe, Sr. (May 29, 1920—October 10, 1978)

Ralph Metcalfe, Sr. was a track and field sprinter and politician. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia, and grew up in Chicago, IL. He graduated from Tilden Tech High School in Chicago and accepted a track scholarship to Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI.

On June 30, 1934, Metcalfe made history at Marquette University Stadium, where the national American Athletic Union (AAU) championships were held. Not only did he become the first person since the 1890s to win two AAU events three years in a row (in his case the 100 and 200 meter races), but on this day he also nipped the soon-to-be legend Jesse Owens in the 100. His time of 10.4 seconds nearly tied the world record, a feat he would manage three times during the next year, leading "Ripley's Believe It Or Not" to label him "World's Fastest Human."

After earning his bachelor's degree at Marquette University in 1936, Metcalfe completed a master's degree at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles in 1939, and his legacy transcends his reputation as one of Marquette's most accomplished athletes. As Owens became one of the world's greatest athletes, he later coached track at Xavier University, and served in the military during World War II.

Metcalfe participated in the Olympics in 1932 and 1936. During the 1936 Olympics, he traveled by ship on the S. S. Manhattan to Germany, along with Jesse Owens and Frank Wykoff. In the sprint relay, Metcalfe became embroiled in a controversy not of his own making. Originally the United States chose for the relay the athletes who had come 4th to 7th in the trials. Two of these athletes, Sam Stoller and Marty Glickman, were replaced with Metcalfe and Jesse Owens allegedly because they were Jewish. Metcalfe and Owens were undoubtedly the superior sprinters but they had not done the relay baton practice and the switch went against established practice.

Metcalfe had already won a silver and a bronze at the 1932 Olympics—but was eclipsed by Owens, a track and field hero at Ohio State who would go on to international fame by winning four gold medals at the 1936 Olympic Games in Adolf Hitler's Berlin. Metcalfe also ran in the games, winning a silver in the 100 (just behind Owens) and a gold as a member of the 400-meter relay (with Owens).

Metcalfe later became director of Chicago's Department of Civil Rights. As a politician, a civil rights advocate, and a representative of and inspiration to his city, his community, and his university, Metcalfe's work and name live on. He spent more than two decades in politics after winning election to the Chicago City Council in 1955; and in 1970 he successfully ran for Congress, where he helped organize the Congressional Black Caucus. Metcalfe was seeking a fifth term in 1978 when he died at his Chicago home on October 10 of an apparent heart attack at age 68.

His memory is immortalized at Marquette University, most notably because of a lecture series that bears his name. Each year three or four "prominent faculty, scholars and professionals of diverse backgrounds" (according to Marquette's website) visit campus

as holders of the Ralph H. Metcalfe, Sr., Chair, delivering public lectures, speaking to classes, and meeting with graduate and undergraduate students. The history department has sponsored a number of Metcalfe Chairs over the years; most recently, in February 2014, Dr. Khalil Gibran Muhammad, director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York Public Library, gave a lecture titled, "Guilty Until Statistically Proven Innocent: How Data Destroyed the Promise of Civil Rights." Two years earlier, Richard Blackett, Andrew Jackson Professor of History at Vanderbilt University, presented "Taking Leave: Fugitive Slaves and the Politics of Freedom, 1850-1860," as part of the department's "Freedom Project," commemorating the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

Metcalfe married Gertrude Pemberton on June 9, 1937 in Dallas, TX. They divorced in Los Angeles, CA in 1943. He married Madalynne Fay Young in 1947 and they had one son. He was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Alpha Sigma Nu honor society, and the Corpus Christi parish in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood. He is interred at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Alsip, southwest of Chicago. A federal office building in Chicago, located at 77 W. Jackson Blvd., was named for him upon its completion in 1991.

Receipt of Street Naming Fee

Date:	8/3/21
Received Of:	Clayborn Benson/Danell Cross
Received By:	LME
Check # (If Applicable):	419
Amount Received	\$100.00