



## Legislation Text

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**File #: 960933, Version: 1**

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960933  
SUBSTITUTE 1

ALD. FRANK AND SCHERBERT

A substitute ordinance relating to the procedure for the renaming of streets.

113-3-1 am  
113-3-3 am  
113-3-4-0 am  
113-3-4-a-0 am  
113-3-4-a-1 am  
113-3-4-a-2 am  
113-3-4-a-5 am  
113-3-4-a-7 am  
113-3-4-b am  
113-3-4-c am  
113-3-4-d-0 am  
113-3-4-d-2 am  
113-3-4-e am  
113-3-5-0 am  
113-3-5-d am  
113-3-6-0 am  
113-3-6-i am  
113-3-7 rc  
- Analysis -

This ordinance establishes a procedure for assigning honorary names to streets. The honorary naming procedure replaces an existing procedure under which official street names can be changed. Under this ordinance, when an honorary street name is approved, the street retains its official name and legal status, but the honorary name is displayed on signs mounted under each official street name sign.

Whereas, The City of Milwaukee has established a street nomenclature and street numbering system that is rational and easy to understand; and

Whereas, This system is of immeasurable benefit to visitors and residents of Milwaukee unfamiliar with certain areas of the city; and

Whereas, An official street renaming imposes costs and other inconveniences on residents and business owners along the affected street; and

Whereas, Under the City's current procedure for street renamings, residents and business owners who do not sign a petition in support of a street renaming must bear the costs and inconveniences that result from a name change they do not favor; and

Whereas, To honor worthy persons, ethnic groups, neighborhoods and historical areas, the City of Chicago uses an honorary street naming system in which official street names are retained but honorary street name signs are mounted along with the official name signs; now, therefore

The Mayor and Common Council of the City of Milwaukee do ordain as follows:

Part 1. Section 113-3-1 and 3 of the code is amended to read:

113-3. Naming of Public Buildings, Facilities and Streets. 1. POLICY. To preserve the city's heritage and protect the public safety and convenience, existing names of public buildings [[,]] >>and<< facilities [[and streets]] may be changed >>, and honorary street names may be assigned,<< only in exceptional cases and only when compelling reasons for >>such<< change >>or assignment<< are evident. In the naming of new public buildings and facilities, >>in the assignment of honorary street names<< and in the exceptional cases of renamings of public buildings [[,]] >>and<< facilities [[and streets]], priority shall be given to names reflecting the city's cultural diversity and the contributions of groups underrepresented in the existing nomenclature.

3. CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE. There is created a citizen advisory committee on the naming of public buildings, facilities and streets which shall make recommendations to the common council regarding proposals to name or rename public buildings [[,]] >>and<< facilities [[and streets]] >>or to assign honorary street names<<. The committee shall consist of 7 members who are residents of the city of Milwaukee and who hold no other public office or public employment. Committee members shall be appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the common

council to serve staggered 3-year terms. The mayor shall designate the chair. Members of the committee shall include at least one recognized local historian, one representative of a local business association or chamber of commerce and one employee of a local nonprofit community organization. Four members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

Part 2. Section 113-3-4-0, a-0 to 2, a-5 and 7 of the code is amended to read:

4. PROCEDURE. Proposals to name new public buildings and facilities ~~[[or]] >>, << to rename existing public buildings [[,]] >>and<< facilities ~~[[and streets]] >>~~or to assign honorary street names<< shall be processed in the following manner:~~

a. A proposal to name or rename a public building ~~[[,]] >>~~or<< facility or >>to assign an honorary<< street >>name<< shall be submitted in writing to the city clerk, who shall refer the proposal to the citizen advisory committee, the appropriate standing committee of the common council and the relevant city department or agency. Each proposal shall include:

a-1. The specific building ~~[[,]] >>~~or<< facility ~~[[or street]]~~ being proposed for naming or renaming >>, or the specific street or street segment being proposed for honorary street naming<<, including a sketch showing its location.

a-2. The full form of the name being proposed, as well as the form suggested for use in the naming ~~[[or]] >>, << renaming >>~~or honorary street naming<<.

a-5. The rationale for naming or renaming the building ~~[[,]] >>~~or<< facility ~~[[or street with the proposed name]] >>~~or for assigning the honorary street name<<, including, if applicable, an explanation of how the name or individual is or has been associated with the building, facility or street or the area in which the building, facility or street is located.

a-7. In the case of ~~[[a street renaming]] >>~~an honorary street naming<<, a petition signed by more than 50 percent of the owners of property along the street, with a maximum of one signature per parcel. Signatures shall be obtained by the person or persons requesting the ~~[[renaming]] >>~~honorary street naming<<. ~~[[A street renaming]] >>~~An honorary street naming<< proposal shall not be considered unless the number of signatures exceeds 50 percent of the number of parcels along the street.

Part 3. Section 113-3-4-b, c, d-0 and 2, and e of the code is amended to read:

b. Following submission of a naming ~~[[or]] >>, << renaming >>~~or honorary street naming<< proposal, the relevant city department or agency shall evaluate the proposed name in terms of the criteria contained in this section. In the case of ~~[[a street renaming]] >>~~an honorary street naming<<, the department or agency shall also determine the legitimacy and sufficiency of the signatures on the petition.

c. If the proposal was submitted in accordance with the requirements of par. a, the relevant city department or agency shall forward the findings of its review of the proposed naming or renaming to the common council committee. The department or agency's report shall include information on the number of signs or name plates that will be required, ~~[[the number of residences and businesses that will be affected,]]~~ the estimated public costs of the naming ~~[[or]] >>, << renaming >>~~or honorary street naming<< and an evaluation of the proposed name in terms of the criteria set forth in this section.

d. The common council committee shall conduct a public hearing on the naming ~~[[or]] >>, << renaming >>~~or honorary street naming<< proposal in accordance with the following guidelines:

d-2. In the case of ~~[[a street renaming]] >>~~an honorary street naming<<, owners of property abutting the street shall be notified of the hearing by mail.

e. Each approved naming ~~[[or]] >>, << renaming >>~~or honorary street naming<< shall take effect 90 days after common council action on the proposal.

Part 4. Section 113-3-5-0 and of the code is amended to read:

5. GENERAL CRITERIA. In reviewing a proposed naming or renaming of a public building ~~[[,]] >>~~or<< facility or >>a proposed honorary<< street >>naming<<, city staff, the citizen advisory committee and the common council committee shall consider the proposed name in light of the following criteria:

d. When a new public building ~~[[,]] >>~~or<< facility ~~[[or street]]~~ has been named, ~~[[or]]~~ when an existing public building ~~[[,]] >>~~or<< facility ~~[[or street]]~~ has been renamed, >>or when an honorary street name has been assigned,<< no name change >>or honorary naming<< proposals shall be considered for a period of 10 years following the effective date of the naming ~~[[or]] >>, << renaming >>~~or honorary street naming<<.

Part 5. Section 113-3-6-0 and i of the code is amended to read:

6. NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS. The following guidelines shall apply to the naming or renaming of public buildings ~~[[,]] >>~~or<< facilities ~~[[or streets]]~~ after individuals >>and to the use of the names of individuals as honorary street names<<:

i. Full names shall not be considered >>in the naming or renaming of a public building or facility<< unless use of an individual's last name only would render the building ~~[[,]] >>~~or<< facility ~~[[or street]]~~ unidentifiable or create confusion with other such buildings ~~[[,]] >>~~or<< facilities ~~[[or streets]]~~. >>Full names may be used in honorary street names.<<

Part 6. Section 113-3-7 of the code is repealed and recreated to read:

7. HONORARY STREET NAMES. Whenever an honorary street name is assigned to a street or a street segment, the street or street segment shall retain its official name and its legal status. The honorary street name shall be indicated on signs mounted directly below each sign bearing the official street name.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

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Legislative Reference Bureau

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
IT IS OUR OPINION THAT THE ORDINANCE  
IS LEGAL AND ENFORCEABLE

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Office of the City Attorney

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

LRB96398.2  
JDO  
10/7/96 THE ORDINANCE  
IS LEGAL AND ENFORCEABLE

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