



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 091537, **Version:** 1

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091537  
SUBSTITUTE 1

ALD. HINES, ALD. WADE, ALD. BAUMAN and ALD. COGGS

Substitute resolution assigning the honorary street name “Mattiebelle Woods” to West Center Street between North 27<sup>th</sup> Street and West Fond du Lac Avenue in the 15<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic District.

This resolution assigns the honorary street name “Mattiebelle Woods” to West Center Street between North 27<sup>th</sup> Street and West Fond du Lac Avenue in the 15<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic District.

Whereas, Mattiebelle Woods was born on October 31, 1902, the only child of Ira and Annabelle Woods in Louisville, Kentucky, and moved to Milwaukee when she was just a youngster although she wanted to be known as a Milwaukee native; and

Whereas, Mattiebelle Woods began her career as the first lady of the Milwaukee black press in the 1940’s, writing her “Partyline” column on the social news of the African-American community in the Milwaukee Courier until just before her death and earlier also worked for the black press in Chicago and was a free-lance writer for Ebony and Jet magazines; and

Whereas, Mattiebelle Woods’ life brought praise from throughout the community and she became known as a woman who made things happen; state Sen. G. Spencer Coggs calling her the matriarch of the city, Gov. Jim Doyle saying she lived a long, inspirational life and was a trailblazer who touched the lives of many, Mayor Tom Barrett calling her a most remarkable woman who “went 100 miles per hour for 102 years”; and

Whereas, Mattiebelle Woods was believed to be the oldest working journalist in the United States and won countless awards and commendations, including a lifetime achievement award from the Wisconsin Black Media Association, recognition by the Milwaukee Press Club for her contributions to the field of journalism and from the local branch of the NAACP; and

Whereas, Mattiebelle Woods was a mentor to many young African-American men and women, and was also Milwaukee’s oldest poll worker; and

Whereas, Mattiebelle Woods passed away on February 17, 2005 at the age of 102 years; and

Whereas, Section 113-3 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances provides a procedure for assigning honorary street names and s. 113-3-6 specifies criteria for using the names of individuals when assigning honorary street names; and

Whereas, The Common Council finds the honorary name of West Center Street between North 27<sup>th</sup> Street and West Fond du Lac Avenue meets the code criteria; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee that the honorary name of “Mattiebelle

Woods” be assigned to West Center Street between North 27<sup>th</sup> Street and West Fond du Lac Avenue; and, be it

Further Resolved, That signage for this honorary street naming complies with design specifications set by the Department of Public Works; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the petitioner has requested suitable honorary street naming signage be fabricated and installed by the Department of Public Works at a cost to be paid in full by the petitioner; and, be it

Further Resolved, That the Department of Public Works shall fabricate and install signage for the honorary street naming within 90 days of adoption of this resolution in compliance with s. 113-3; and, be it

Further Resolved, That petitioner shall notify the Department of Public Works if and when signage for this honorary street naming needs to be replaced and the petitioner will fully reimburse the City for any such replacement.

LRB126020-2  
Teodros W. Medhin/lp  
4/5/2011