



February 5, 2021

Ald. Milele A. Coggs
(414) 286-2994

Nominations now being accepted for 2021 Vel R. Phillips Trailblazer Award

The Vel R. Phillips Trailblazer Award is bestowed annually to recognize a female city resident who exemplifies Vel R. Phillips' legacy of selfless service and trailblazing work toward improving the quality of life for residents in Milwaukee. Nominations for the **2021 Vel R. Phillips Trailblazer Award** are now being accepted until the close of business on **Friday, February 26, 2021**.

"The Award Selection Committee is asking for nominations of outstanding individuals within the community who represent Vel Phillips' spirit, dedication and love of Milwaukee," said **Alderman Milele A. Coggs**. "The entire committee looks forward to reviewing each nomination to learn more about the innovative and creative ways women in our community are working to improve quality of life for residents, and blazing a trail for everyone to thrive personally and professionally."

Nominations must include a description of the nominee's work in the areas of social justice and/or civic engagement, challenges the nominee has overcome in these areas and any other examples of the nominee embodying the spirit of Vel R. Phillips.

Nominees must be female City of Milwaukee residents who are not publicly-elected officials. Applicants may nominate themselves or others. The winner will be announced during the virtual Girl's Day at City Hall program in March. For more information on how to submit a nomination and for a form, please click [here](#), or contact Joanna Polanco at (414) 286-2366 or jpolan@milwaukee.gov.



VEL R. PHILLIPS

TRAILBLAZER AWARD

The Vel R. Phillips Trailblazer Award is bestowed annually recognizing female city residents who best exemplify Vel R. Phillips' legacy of selfless service and trailblazing work to improve the quality of life for residents in Milwaukee.

NOMINATION LETTER REQUIREMENTS

Write a nomination letter to include the following:

- ▶ Description of the nominee's work in the area of social justice and/or civic accomplishment
- ▶ Example(s) of instances when the nominee has been a defining force in this area
- ▶ Challenges that the nominee has overcome to work in the field of social justice and/or civic accomplishment or acted as an instrument for social justice and/or civic accomplishment
- ▶ List any related awards or recommendations that the nominee has received

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

DEADLINE: Friday, February 26, 2021

Submit **a copy** of your **nomination letter** (3 pages maximum) along with the completed **nomination form** and any **supporting materials** that would help the committee make its selection.



DOWNLOAD FORM HERE

milwaukee.gov/VelRPhillipsTrailblazerAward



CONTACT/SUBMISSION INFO

Joanna Polanco

City Clerk's Office
City Hall, Room 205
Milwaukee WI 53202

*Anyone can nominate themselves or others, but nominees must be city residents who are not publicly elected officials.

Any questions can be directed to Joanna Polanco
either by phone at (414) 286-2366 or by email at jpolan@milwaukee.gov.

VEL R. PHILLIPS

TRAILBLAZER
AWARD

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VEL R. PHILLIPS
TRAILBLAZER AWARD
SELECTION COMMITTEE

- ▶ Ald. Milele A. Coggs
- ▶ Keith Bailey
- ▶ Mildred Coby
- ▶ Jasmine Johnson
- ▶ Michael Phillips
- ▶ Peggy Rozga
- ▶ Jada Young

Velvlea Hortense Rodgers Phillips (1923–2018) was a Milwaukee native who became a leader in not only the African-American community but was a trailblazer and role model for all Milwaukeeans, for Wisconsin, and the nation. Ms. Phillips achieved many “firsts” in her lifetime:

- ▶ First African-American woman to graduate from the University of Wisconsin Law School
- ▶ First African-American to be elected to the Milwaukee Common Council
- ▶ First female judge in Milwaukee, and the first African-American judge in Wisconsin
- ▶ First person of color to be elected Secretary of State in Wisconsin
- ▶ First African-American to be elected as a member of the Democratic National Committee.

Whether serving as an elected official or as a private citizen, Ms. Phillips worked tirelessly to better her community with a fearless and pioneering spirit. She will be remembered for her mission to eliminate barriers between disadvantaged people and their goals, clearing the path for educational, occupational, social and political parity.

Please print clearly in black or blue ink

NOMINEE'S NAME: _____

NOMINEE'S ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: (_____) _____ - _____

Anyone can nominate themselves or others, but nominees must be city residents who are not publicly elected officials.

ORGANIZATION AFFILIATION: _____

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: (_____) _____ - _____

Write a nomination letter to include the following:

- ▶ Please describe the nominee's work in the area of social justice and/or civic accomplishment.
- ▶ Please share example(s) of instances when the nominee has been a defining force in this area.
- ▶ Are there any challenges that the nominee has faced that have been overcome to work in the field of social justice and/or civic accomplishment or acted as an instrument for social justice and/or civic accomplishment?
- ▶ List any related awards or recommendations that the nominee has received.

Please submit a copy of your nomination letter (three pages maximum) by **Friday, February 26, 2021** along with this form, and any supporting materials that would help the committee make its selection. Submissions should be sent to **Joanna Polanco - City Clerk's Office; City Hall, Room 205; Milwaukee WI 53202**. Any questions can be directed to Joanna either by phone at **(414) 286-2366** or by email at **jpolan@milwaukee.gov**.