



CITY OF MILWAUKEE

City Hall, 200 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202 • www.city.milwaukee.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 9, 2021

Continuing King Drive is continuing the legacy of Dr. King

Statement from all members of the Milwaukee Common Council – Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs, Alderman Ashanti Hamilton, Alderman Cavalier Johnson, Alderman Nik Kovac, Alderman Robert J. Bauman, Alderwoman Nikiya Dodd, Alderman Khalif J. Rainey, Alderwoman JoCasta Zamarripa, Alderwoman Chantia Lewis, Alderman Michael J. Murphy, Alderman Mark A. Borkowski, Alderman José G. Pérez, Alderman Scott Spiker, Alderwoman Marina Dimitrijevic and Alderman Russell W Stamper, II

Out of respect, honor and reverence for the work and legacy of Dr. King, to correctly continue a rightful path, and to aid this city in healing from our notorious reputation of systemic racism and segregation, we have passed (with unanimous Council sponsorship) legislation to rename Old World Third Street to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. Currently, King Drive abruptly changes to Old World Third street, reminding us of the 1984 effort to limit the King street naming from entering downtown Milwaukee.

We hope this legislation serves as inspiration, hope, healing and encouragement for the quest for justice and racial equity. The geographical division between today's Old World Third Street and King Drive reflects the segregation and division that has been pervasive in this city.

To address the street renaming concerns of local business owners, we are more than willing to work with business owners on ways to make the transition as easy as possible, and we welcome conversation about the timing of implementation and other concerns business owners might have.

We see the passage of this legislation as demonstration of our willingness to not be silent in the fight to usher in the necessary change for a better Milwaukee and a better tomorrow.