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Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony,  
President  
Kamilia K. Landrum,  
Executive Director

October 16, 2024

The Honorable Mary Sheffield  
President, Detroit City Council  
2 Woodward Ave., Ste 1340  
Detroit, MI 48226

Dear President Sheffield,

Please receive this letter in support of the official street naming designation in honor of one of our nation's most historic labor leaders, Horace Sheffield, Jr. Horace Sheffield has long served as an iconic figure in the area of both labor and civil rights. He has been a champion for the rights of workers, the rejected and the neglected, not only in the city of Detroit but nationwide. His record is stellar as it relates to the Detroit Branch NAACP and our national organization. As President of the Detroit Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and Founder of the Trade Union Leadership Council along with Robert "Buddy" Battle, Mr. Sheffield has laid a trail for workers, minorities, and women throughout this nation. Horace Sheffield was involved in the historic Walk to Freedom held in Detroit in 1963 with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He was also a participant in the infamous Selma to Montgomery, Alabama March in 1965.

As a former Director of the Detroit Branch NAACP and Youth Department Leader with our national office, he has inspired and created a yearning for civil and human rights and protecting the dignity and opportunity for all people. Mr. Sheffield, who worked in the foundries of the Ford Motor Company Rouge Plant, rose through the ranks which enabled him to become one of America's most effective union leaders. A key supporter of Detroit's first Black Mayor the Honorable Coleman A. Young, he organized the labor community and many others to ensure victory and the political progress for the African American community. Certainly, one of his most important contributions was as founder of the Detroit Association of Black Organizations in 1979. This organization has provided services from financial literacy to food and health care for members of our community. On a personal note, as a student at Wayne State University I was given the opportunity to travel to East Africa with the university. Unfortunately, the trip was canceled. Gratefully, Dr. Noah Brown Jr., one of the first African American Vice President's at WSU, was determined that we would still travel to Africa. He was able to enlist the support of African American business and civil rights leaders to guarantee our trip. Among the first to contribute financially to this venture for two aspiring young African American social activists, Wendell Anthony and Ron Massey, was of course Horace Sheffield, Jr., and the late Dr. Francis Kornegay. He has always possessed a love for youth and an unrelenting commitment to the city of Detroit.

As Horace Sheffield, Jr. was committed to Detroit, it is our hope that Detroit will convey a commitment to sustain his legacy. It is most appropriate that we dedicate a street to reflect his name and the historic contributions that he has made. I urge the council to move forward on this unique opportunity. Thank you so much for your support in this matter. I remain...

Yours in the Struggle

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendell Anthony". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony

Cc: Horace Sheffield, III  
Kamilia K. Landrum