

**City of Detroit**  
**CITY COUNCIL**

**HISTORIC DESIGNATION ADVISORY BOARD**

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**TO:** Council Pro Tem James Tate  
Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee

**FROM:** Janese Chapman, Director/ Ryan Schumaker, Deputy Director  
Historic Designation Advisory Board

**DATE:** October 5, 2022

**RE: SECONDARY STREET SIGNS**

The Historic Designation Advisory Board (HDAB) staff has reviewed fifteen (15) petitions for the establishment of a Secondary Street Sign. Upon review of the documentation submitted by the petitioners, staff has determined that seven (7) of them meet the eligibility requirements per the Secondary Street Sign Ordinance, Chapter 43 of the 2019 Detroit City Code, *Streets, Sidewalks, and other Public Places, Article III, Opening, Closing, Extending, Widening, Vacating, Naming and Renaming of Streets and Assigning Secondary Names to Streets.*

# HONRABLE CITY COUNCIL

## 2021-2022 Secondary Street Sign Applications

### Executive Summary



#### Purpose

Per Chapter 43 of the 2019 Detroit City Code, a street may be assigned a secondary street sign that displays a different name than the official street name for the purpose of honorary recognition.

#### Review and Findings

The Historic Designation Advisory Board (HDAB) staff has received fifteen (15) petitions for the establishment of a Secondary Street Sign, and has reviewed the documentation submitted by the petitioners. Upon review of the documentation submitted by the petitioners, staff has determined that **seven (7) of them meet the eligibility requirements** per the Secondary Street Sign Ordinance.

Additional, it has been determined by HDAB staff that reasonable grounds have not been provided and therefore has concluded that the other **eight (8) petitions do not meet the criteria** as stated in Chapter 43 of the 2019 Detroit City Code, Streets, Sidewalks, and other Public Places, Article III, Opening, Closing, Extending, Widening, Vacating, Naming and Renaming of Streets and Assigning Secondary Names to Streets.

#### Meets Eligibility Criteria

The following petitions meet the eligibility criteria for a Secondary Street Sign:

Mr. O'Neil D. Swanson

John Lee Hooker

Mrs. Elizabeth L. Richard

Gregory Mudge

Dr. Chad Audi

Benjamin "Benny" Napoleon

Jeannette M. Wheatley

Details on each of these petitions can be found in the pages that follow.

#### Does Not Meet Eligibility Criteria

The following petitions were denied due to lack of documentation:

Vincent Chin

Otis William

James Jamerson

Edith M. Ellerbee

Dominique Mousseau

Mama Sandra Simmions

Jada Rankie

Dr. Curtis Ivery

# HONRABLE CITY COUNCIL

## Secondary Street Sign Application

### Mr. O'Neil D. Swanson



## Request

The request to assign a Secondary Street Sign in honor of Mr. O'Neil D. Swanson at the intersection of East Grand Boulevard and Mack Avenue is being forwarded to Your Honorable Body for your review and consideration.

## Location



Intersection of East Grand Boulevard and Mack Avenue

## Approval Criteria

The honoree Mr. O'Neil D. Swanson has met the approval criteria for the assigning of a Secondary Street Sign as outlined in Section 43 –3-41 of the City Code. Whereas the assignment of a secondary street sign is for purpose of honorary recognition only for an individual who has achieved prominence because of his or her significant, positive, and extraordinary contributions to the City of Detroit, State of Michigan, the United States of America, or the international community; in reviewing the biographical and supporting documentation provided by the applicant, former Council President Brenda Jones.

## Individual Contributions

The contributions of O'Neil Swanson made by-way-of his decades of his service to the Metro Detroit Community as a businessman, bank organizer, community leader, mentor, and funeral director. Founder and owner of Swanson Funeral Homes; Swanson opened his first funeral home in Detroit in 1958. It became a vital service for Detroiters; especially African Americans by helping others pay their last respects to family and friends.



# HONRABLE CITY COUNCIL

## Secondary Street Sign Application

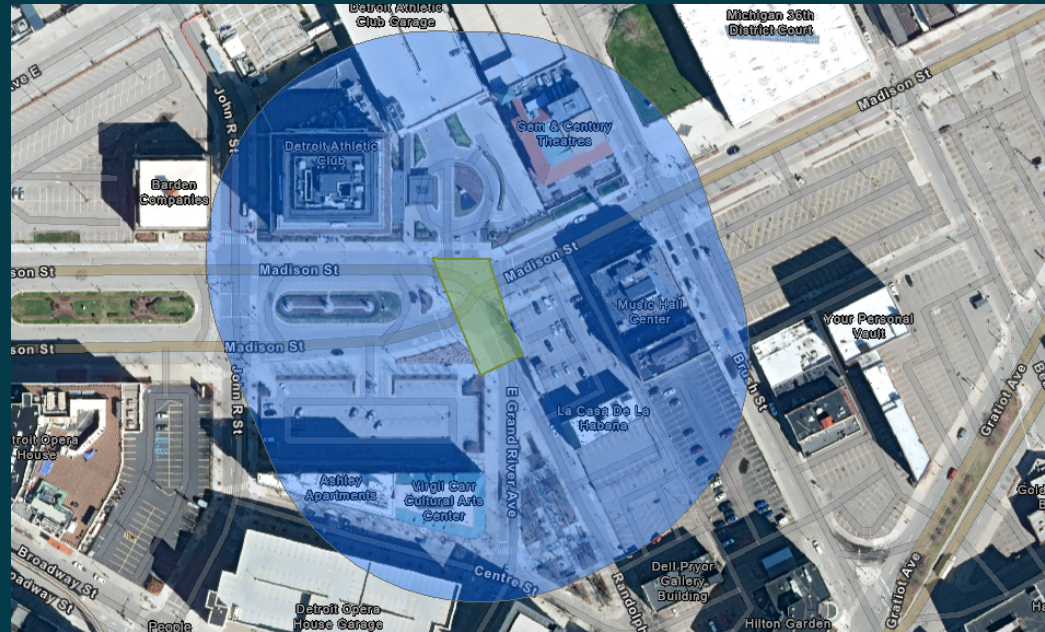
### John Lee Hooker



## Request

The request to assign a Secondary Street Sign in honor of John Lee Hooker at the intersection of Randolph Street and Madison Avenue is being forwarded to Your Honorable Body for your review and consideration.

## Location



Intersection of Randolph Street and Madison Avenue

## Approval Criteria

The honoree John Lee Hooker has met the approval criteria for the assigning of a Secondary Street Sign as outlined in Section 43 –3-41 of the City Code. Whereas the assignment of a secondary street sign is for purpose of honorary recognition only for an individual who has achieved prominence because of his or her significant, positive, and extraordinary contributions to the City of Detroit, State of Michigan, the United States of America, or the international community; in reviewing the biographical and supporting documentation provided by the applicant, Vincent Paul, Director of the Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts and Zakiya Hooker; daughter of John Lee Hooker.

## Individual Contributions

American blues singer, songwriter, and guitarist; blue legend John Lee Hooker earned the reputation as one of the most prominent blues musicians of his time. Son of a sharecropper, John Lee Hooker moved to Detroit in 1943 from Coahoma County, Mississippi and took a job in the automobile factory while perusing his passion to play the guitar on his own terms like incorporating elements into his songs such as “Talking Blues” and “early North Mississippi hill country blues.” Hooker was known for adapting the Delta blues to the electric guitar, thus giving the blues a uniquely different sound, which soon recognized on within the nation music scene.

John Lee Hooker early recording included Boogie Chillen, Crawling King Snake and Weeping Willows. Hooker won numerous awards and accolades: three Grammy and the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1980 he was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He acted in several movies: The Blues Brothers (1980) and The Color Purple (1985).



# HONRABLE CITY COUNCIL

## Secondary Street Sign Application

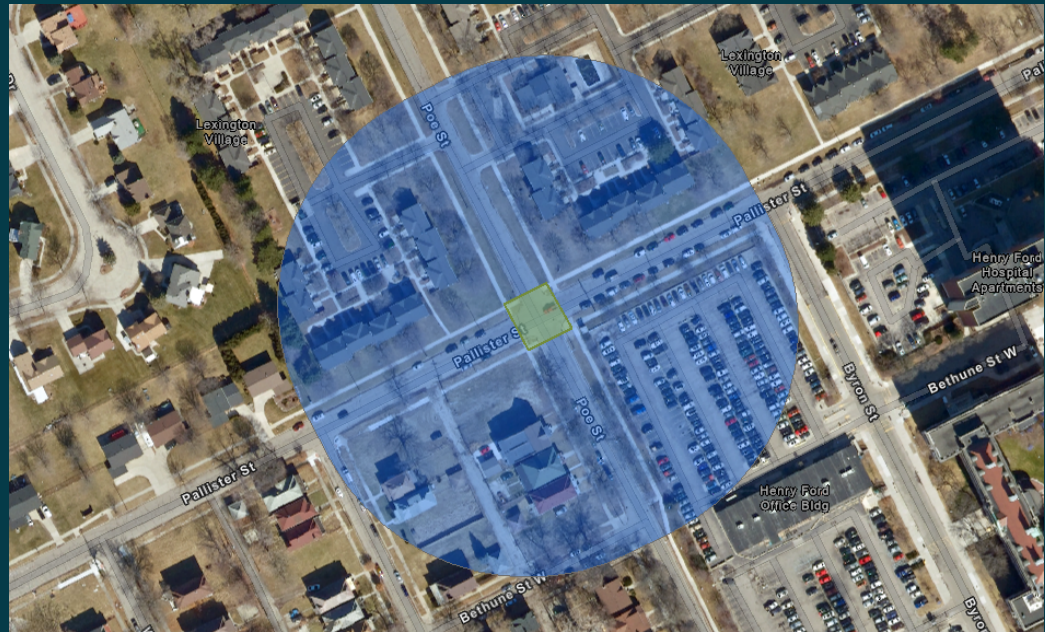
### Mrs. Elizabeth L. Richard



## Request

The request to assign a Secondary Street Sign in honor of Mrs. Elizabeth Richard at the intersection of Pallister Avenue and Poe Street is being forwarded to Your Honorable Body for your review and consideration.

## Location



Intersection of Pallister Avenue and Poe Street

## Approval Criteria

The Honoree Mrs. Elizabeth L. Richard has met the approval criteria for assigning of a Secondary Street Sign as outlined in Section 43-3-41 of the City Code. Whereas the assignment of a secondary street sign is for the purpose of honorary recognition only for an individual who has achieved prominence because of his or her significant, positive, and extraordinary contributions to the City of Detroit, State of Michigan, the United States of America, or the international community; in reviewing the biographical and supporting documentation provided by the applicant, Venita Thompkins, daughter.

## Individual Contributions

Elizabeth L. Richard has a long and distinguished career in the city of Detroit since arriving in the city in 1960 from Columbus, Georgia. A staunch advocate for equity and justice for over a half of a century. Mrs. Richard has been an exceptional church, community, and civic leader. As a member of St. John C.M.E. Church, she served on the Trustee Board and led the efforts to have the church designated as a local historic district and listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Mrs. Richard worked tirelessly in the Virginia Park neighborhood where she served on more than a dozen community organizations including the Virginia Park Citizen's District Council and manager of the North Central Neighborhood City Hall.

Politically active, Mrs. Richard worked on the reelection campaign of U.S. Representative John Conyers. She served in five mayoral administrations including Jerome P. Cavanaugh, Coleman A. Young, Sr., and Dennis Archer. She also served as Council Community to the late Councilmember Kaye Everett.

# HONRABLE CITY COUNCIL

## Secondary Street Sign Application

### Gregory Mudge



## Request

The request to assign a Secondary Street Sign in honor of Gregory Mudge at the intersection of Brooklyn and Porter Streets and is being forwarded to Your Honorable Body for your review and consideration.

## Location



Intersection of Brooklyn Street and Porter Street

## Approval Criteria

The honoree Mr. Gregory “Greg” Mudge has met the approval criteria for the assigning of a Secondary Street Sign as outlined in Section 43-3-41 of City Code. Whereas the assignment of a secondary street sign is for the purpose of honorary recognition only for an individual who has achieved prominence because of his or her significant, positive, and extraordinary contributions to the City of Detroit, State of Michigan, the United States of America, or the international community; in reviewing the biographical and supporting documentation provided by the applicant, Mrs. Debra Walker, former Councilmember Castaneda-Lopez.

## Individual Contributions

A businessman and community advocate and leader Gregory Mudge has been a fixture in the Corktown neighborhood until his untimely death in 20. He open Mudgie’s Deli in February 2008 and immediately became involved in the Corktown community. He was known for using local Detroit suppliers and hiring young people from the community to work in his restaurant. To help feed the homeless, he developed a token program where customers could purchase a token for five dollars to give to homeless person to redeem it for a sandwich, bag of chips and drink at the restaurant.

Mudgie’s deli has recognized in the restaurant industry and earned numerous awards. Voted Best Deli Wayne County-Metro Times 2010-2011; Best Sandwich Shop 2013-2021-Hour Magazine; Leggo Sandwich-One of the best sandwiches in America- Food Network; Thrillist-Top 33 sandwich shops in the U.S.

Greg Mudge was a member of both the Corktown Business Association and the East End Corktown Block Club. He engaged the community whenever proposed changes impact the community. Greg adopted and maintained the Murphy Play Lot where he personally cleared and planted flowers and worked with the city to provide benches for the park. His on-going participation included donating food and beverages for Corktown’s community events; Spring into Corktown, Corktown Pumpkinfest and Corktown Aglow.



# HONRABLE CITY COUNCIL

## Secondary Street Sign Application

### Dr. Chad Audi



## Request

The request to assign a Secondary Street Sign in honor of Dr. Chad Audi at the intersection of Stimson Street and Cass Avenue is being forwarded to Your Honorable Body for your review and consideration.

## Location



Intersection of Stimson Street and Cass Avenue

## Approval Criteria

The honoree Dr. Chad has met the approval criteria for the assigning of a Secondary Street Sign outlined in Section 43-3-41 of the City Code. Whereas the assignment of a secondary street sign is for purposes of honorary recognition only for the individual who achieved prominence because of his or her significant, positive, and extraordinary contributions to the City of Detroit, State of Michigan, the United States of America, or the international community; in reviewing the biographical and supporting documentation provided by the applicant, former Council President Brenda Jones.

## Individual Contributions

Dr. Chad Audi made-by-way of his decades of service to the Metro Detroit Community as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries (DRMM), a not-for-profit organization cited by the U.S. News and World report as the 13th largest substance abuse treatment center in the U.S. and reputed as one of the largest Recuse Missions in the world.

Dr. Chad Audi is an experienced senior executive with over 23 years of executive management experience and recognition as a visionary and dynamic leader in no-profit and for-profit sectors. Dr. Audi is a sought-after high impact trainer and consultant in effective leadership, marketing, communications, corporate governance, conflict resolution and negotiation. Dr. Chad has delivered well received lectures and trainings at universities, professional associations, top businesses and nonprofits in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, and other countries.



# HONRABLE CITY COUNCIL

## Secondary Street Sign Application

### Benjamin “Benny” Napoleon



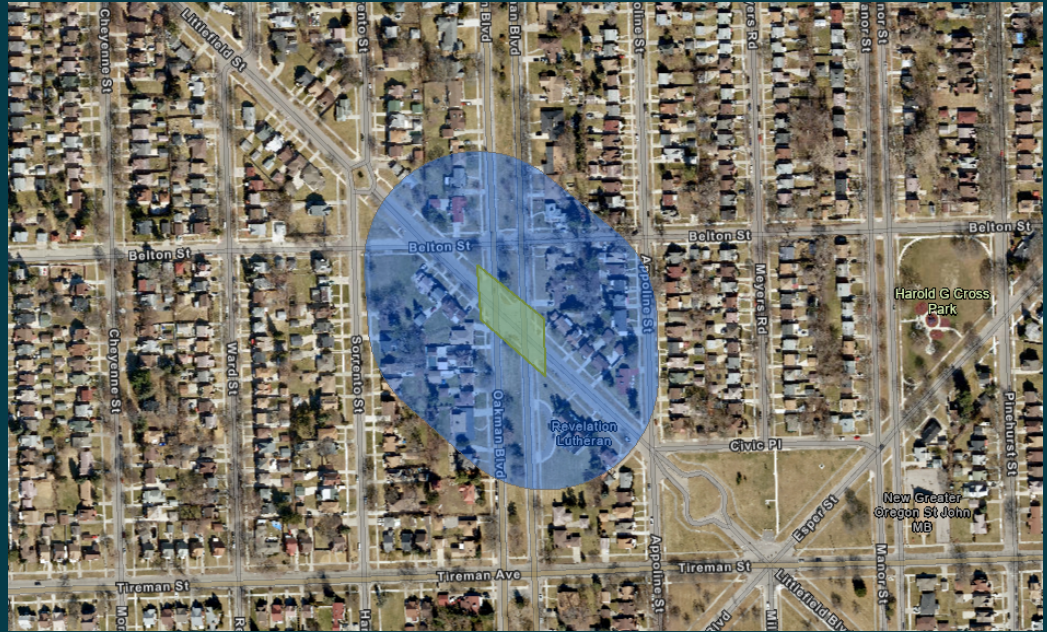
## Request

The request to assign a Secondary Street Sign in honor of Mr. Benjamin “Benny” Napoleon at the intersection of Oakman Boulevard and Littlefield Street is being forwarded to Your Honorable Body for your review and consideration.

## Approval Criteria

The honoree Mr. Benjamin Napoleon has met the approval criteria for assigning of a Secondary Street Sign as outlined in Section 43-3-41 of the City Code. Whereas the assignment of secondary street sign is for purpose of honorary recognition only for an individual who has achieved prominence because of his or her significant, positive, and extraordinary contributions to the City of Detroit, State of Michigan, the United States of America, or the international community; in reviewing the biographical and supporting documentation provided by the applicant, Councilmember Fred Durhal II (District 7); support letters from At-Large-Councilmembers Coleman A. Young, II and Councilmember Mary Waters).

## Location



Intersection of Oakman Boulevard and Littlefield Street

## Individual Contributions

Attorney, law enforcement officer and politician, Benjamin “Benny” Napoleon dedicated his life to public service. A proud graduate of Detroit Cass Technical High School, Napoleon entered the Detroit Academy in 1975 and joined the Detroit Police Department. He later earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from the University of Detroit Mercy, and a Juris Doctoral degree from Detroit College of Law at Michigan State University. Napoleon rose through the ranks eventually becoming the Police Chief of the Detroit Police Department, serving from 1998 to 2001. He was appointed Wayne County Sheriff in 2009; winning re-election in 2012, 2016, and 2020. During his tenure as County Sheriff was responsible for the expansion of electronic monitoring program which saved the County approximately 2 million dollars. He also helped to reduce the daily inmate population with the introduction of alternate incarceration options. Napoleon worked tirelessly in his effort to keep his officers healthy and safe during the coronavirus pandemic. He recorded several public announcements encouraging the public to wear masks and get vaccinated. Unfortunately, Benjamin “Benny” Napoleon died after complications with Covid 19.

# HONRABLE CITY COUNCIL

## Secondary Street Sign Application

### Jeannette M. Wheatley



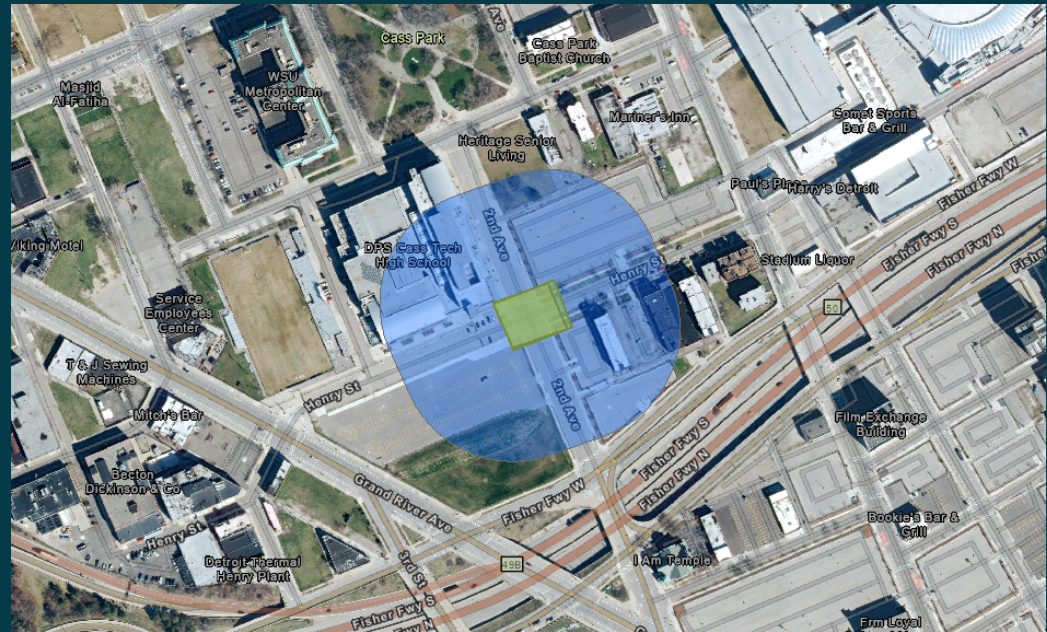
## Request

The request to assign a Secondary Street Sign in honor of Ms. Jeannette Mitchell Wheatley at the intersection of Henry Street and Second Avenue is being forwarded to Your Honorable Body for your review and consideration.

## Approval Criteria

The honoree Ms. Jeannette M. Wheatley has met the approval criteria for assigning of a Secondary Street Sign as outlined in Section 43-3-41 of the City Code. Whereas the assignment of secondary street sign is for purpose of honorary recognition only for an individual who has achieved prominence because of his or her significant, positive, and extraordinary contributions to the City of Detroit, State of Michigan, the United States of America, or the international community; in reviewing the biographical and supporting documentation provided by the applicant, Ms. Gail Perry; support letters from Council President Mary Sheffield, Council Pro Tem James Tate-District-2, Councilmember Scott Benson-District 3.

## Location



Intersection of Henry Street and Second Avenue

## Individual Contributions

Quality education was the foundation of Jeannette M. Wheatley life; the consummate educator, compassion, high standards, and integrity to young people defined her distinguished career. She spent her early childhood in North Carolina and Ohio; in 1950 her family moved to Detroit. Ms. Wheatley graduated with honors from Highland Park, (MI) High School in 1953. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1957 from Fisk University and later went on to earn a master's degree in Education Administration and Supervision from the University of Detroit Mercy.

Jeannette Wheatley had a 31-year career as an educator in the Detroit Public Schools. Her first teaching assignment was at Condon Junior High (Middle) School where she taught social studies and a guidance counselor. She served as the guidance and counseling department head at Northwestern High School. She later became the Assistant Principal of Southwestern High School; first African American female Principal of Chadsey High School; and first female and African American Principal of Cass Technical high School. In 1993, Ms. Wheatley retired from Detroit Public Schools, to begin a second career with the Archdiocese of Detroit as the Associate Superintendent/Curriculum, retiring from that position in 2004.

Ms. Wheatley was a dedicated and tireless participant in the cultural, charity and civic communities in Detroit. She received the United Foundation Heart of Gold Award in 2004. In 2006 the main auditorium of Cass Technical High School was named the Jeannette Wheatley Grand Theater.