

**DATE:** October 15, 2024  
**TO:** Land Use and Economic Development Committee of the City Council  
**FROM:** Helen Miller, Planner  
**CC:** James N. Torri, Planning Director  
**SUBJECT:** Honorary Street Name (Reverend Genevieve Brown)

### **BACKGROUND**

The applicant, Bishop Steven Evans, has submitted an application for an honorary street name designation for Reverend Genevieve Brown due to her contributions to Joliet as a community advocate and servant leader. Reverend Brown was a person of service throughout her life and was involved with a variety of organizations and initiatives. She volunteered with the Salvation Army, organizing the Christmas Angels project and distributing food. She served as PTA president and band booster president when her children were young and enjoyed reading to children at local schools. As president of the local chapter of Mended Hearts, a nonprofit organization that provides support to caregivers and families of those with cardiovascular disease, she brought regional and national recognition to the group and increased local membership.

The application describes Reverend Brown as a trailblazer: she was the first African American cheerleader at Joliet Township High School; she was the first African American woman to run for the school board in Joliet; and in the 1970s, she became the first African American female wrestling referee in the state of Illinois. As a way to encourage teen mothers to continue their education, she created the Reverend Genevieve Brown Scholarship within Joliet Township High School District 204. Reverend Brown received many awards for her community service work, including the Community Service Award from the National Hook-Up of Black Women, the Vivian Pennymon Community Service Award from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and Woman of Distinction from the Midwest Christian Women's Conference.

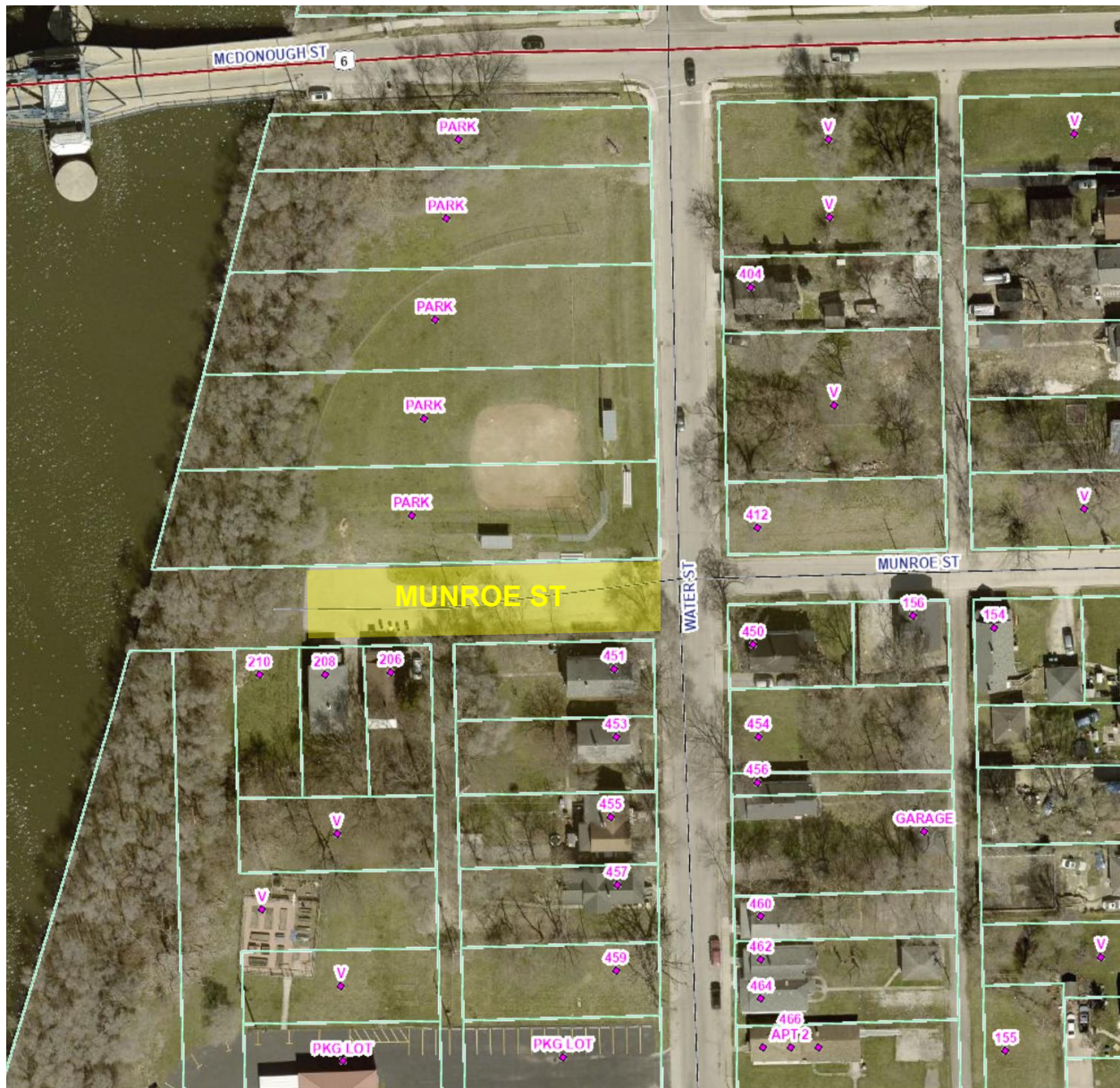
Reverend Brown was born and raised in Joliet, Illinois. She and her children lived at 208 Munroe Street, which is located on the section of Munroe Street to be dedicated.

Approximately 50% of the adjoining property owners have signed the attached Honorary Street Name Application.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Based on the information provided, staff recommends that the Land Use and Economic Development Committee recommends approval of the honorary designation of Munroe Street between the Des Plaines River and Water Street as "Reverend Genevieve Brown Way."

Munroe Street between the Des Plaines River and Water Street



Proper Street Name: Munroe St.

Intersecting streets at each end of the street segment to be designated:

Water Street St., Des Plaines St., Joliet St., Ottawa St.

Please check all that apply and give a brief explanation of the applicable criteria. A street can be named for an individual, place or event.

☒ Individual

Rev. Genevieve Brown was a community advocate and servant leader. Throughout her life, Rev. Brown served. As president of the local Mended Hearts organization, she brought regional and national recognition to the Joliet Chapter, increasing membership and organizing guest speakers that provided timely and relevant medical support for the membership. Rev. Brown was found volunteering at the Salvation Army organizing the Christmas Angel project and distributing food. She enjoyed reading to children at local schools. As a young mother of five, she served as the PTA president and the band booster president.

For her community work, Rev. Brown received many awards and recognitions. Some include: Mother's Against Gangs, Joliet NAACP Phenomenal Women, Woman of Distinction (Midwest Christian Women's Conference), Vivian Pennymon Community Service Award (Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority) and the Community Service Award (National Hook Up of Black Women).

☐ Place

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☐ Event

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☐ Historical impact to the City:

Rev. Brown was a trailblazer. She never shied away from a challenge. She was a woman of firsts. She was the first African American cheerleader at Joliet Township High School and the first African American woman to run for the School Board in Joliet. In the 1970's, she became the first African American female wrestling referee in the state of Illinois. She created the Genevieve Brown Scholarship for high school teen mothers as a way to encourage them to continue their education.

☒ Humanitarian efforts:



As a teen mother, Rev. Brown knew the importance of an education. In \_\_\_\_\_ she created the Genevieve Brown Scholarship at Joliet Twp Central for high school teen mothers as a way to encourage them to continue their education.

X Close association with Joliet:

Rev. Brown was born and raised in Joliet, IL.

X Geographical relationship of the street to the area of interest of the nominee:

Rev. Brown's in-laws lived at 208 W. Monroe Street. After the death of her mother-in-law, Rev. Brown and her children lived in this residence.

\_\_\_\_ Responsible for an accomplishment of local, regional, national or international significance:

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Petition indicating 50% of adjoining property owner approval of an honorary street

name

As an adjoining property owner to the proposed honorary street name known as

REV. GENEVIEVE BROWN WAY, I hereby approve of the honorary street name being proposed:

NAME ADDRESS DATE

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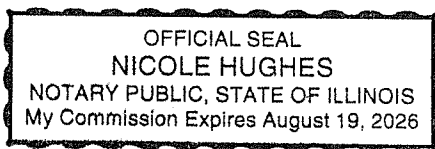
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I, BISHOP STEVEN EVANS, depose and say that the above statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I agree to be present in person or by representation when this petition is heard before the Joliet Land Use & Legislative Committee.

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

+ [Signature]

Date: 10-3-2024



Subscribed and sworn to before me this

10 day of October, 2024

Nicole Hughes

Applicant's Address: 3236 DEER PATH LN. Phone No.: (815) 302-0103

E-mail Address: EVASTEPHEN@gmail.com  
EVASTEPHEN

Submit completed form to:

City of Joliet  
Attn: James N. Torri, Director  
Planning Division  
Community Development  
150 W. Jefferson Street  
Joliet, IL 60432  
Phone: (815)724-4050  
Email: zoning@joliet.gov

City of Joliet Web Site: Joliet.gov

**PRINT**

Honorary Street ReNaming  
Reverend Genevieve Brown Way

Dear residents of 206 and 208 Munroe Street, I am asking for your approval to rename your street Reverend Genevieve Brown Way. Reverend Brown was our mother and a Community Activist receiving countless awards and recognitions for her Servant Leadership.

We are asking that you support our effort with your signature supporting the Honorary Steet in her name on the Street she cared for her father-in-law and raised her 5 children.

I Support renaming Water St to the 200 block of Munroe St  
Reverend Genevieve Brown Way

Name Danielle +010 Ambros

Address 206 Munroe St

Phone Number 815-715-1821

Name UNOCCUPIED 9.2.2024

Address 208 Munroe St

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Petition indicating 50% of adjoining property owner approval of an honorary street name**

As an adjoining property owner to the proposed honorary street name known as REV. GENEVIEVE BROWN WAY, I, hereby approve of the honorary street name being proposed:

**NAME**

**ADDRESS**

**DATE**

Freddy Jones	414 S OTTAWA ST.	9-30-24
Daphne Payton	115 S. Joliet St	9-30-24
Monica Hill	454 S. Joliet	9-30-24
Ecclesiastes Matthews	413 S Joliet	9-30-24
Antoine King	450 WATER ST	9-30-24
FANNIE King	1150 Water St.	9-30-24
Levi Hummer	451 water st	9-30-24
DeWeon Sharpe	154 munroe st	10-02-24
Ardis Johnson	154 Munroe St	10/2/24
Mark Rogers	154 Munroe St	10/2/24

**Attach additional sheets if necessary**

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN HONORARY STREET  
NAME DESIGNATION FOR REVEREND GENEVIEVE BROWN WAY  
(Munroe Street, between the Des Plaines River and Water Street)**

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Genevieve Brown was a community advocate and servant leader for the Joliet community throughout her life; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Genevieve Brown was involved in numerous organizations and initiatives, including the local chapter of Mended Hearts, the Salvation Army Christmas Angel project and food drives, and volunteering in the local schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Genevieve Brown received a number of awards for her community work, including the Community Service Award from the National Hook-Up of Black Women, the Vivian Pennymon Community Service Award from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and Woman of Distinction from the Midwest Christian Women’s Conference; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Genevieve Brown was a trailblazer as the first African American cheerleader at Joliet Township High school and the first African American women to run for the school board in Joliet; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 50% of the adjoining property owners have signed the approval for the honorary street name designation to Reverend Genevieve Brown Way.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOLIET, ILLINOIS AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1:** The honorary designation of Munroe Street between the Des Plaines River and Water Street to be designated as “Reverend Genevieve Brown Way” is hereby approved.

**SECTION 2:** This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval, and recording, according to law.

**PASSED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MAYOR**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CITY CLERK**

**VOTING YES:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VOTING NO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOT VOTING:** \_\_\_\_\_