



City of Joliet

Land Use & Economic Development Committee

Meeting Agenda - Final

Committee Members
Councilman Cesar Cardenas, Chairperson
Councilwoman Suzanna Ibarra
Councilman Pat Mudron

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

3:30 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers

Citizens who are unable to attend the meeting can email comments in advance of the meeting to publiccomment@joliet.gov.

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1/21/26 Land Use & Economic Development Meeting Minutes

[**TMP-9560**](#)

Attachments: [2565 M Land Use Economic Development Committee 26 -01-21 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS

This section is for anyone wanting to speak regarding agenda items and are allowed a maximum of 4 minutes. It is not a question and answer period and staff, and the Committee members do not generally respond to public comments. The City Clerk has a copy of the public speaking procedures; please note, speakers who engage in conduct injurious to the harmony of the meeting shall be called to order by the Presiding Officer and may forfeit the opportunity to speak.

AGENDA ITEMS

Honorary Street Name Designation for Michael Austin Clark Way
(Glenwood Avenue between Hammes Avenue and Larkin Avenue)

[**TMP-9510**](#)

Attachments: [Memo - Clark Glenwood Ave.pdf](#)
[Application - Honorary Street Name Clark Redacted.pdf](#)
[Resolution - Honorary Street Name Clark.docx](#)

NEW OR OLD BUSINESS - NOT FOR FINAL ACTION OR RECOMMENDATION

PUBLIC COMMENT

This section is for anyone wanting to speak regarding non-agenda items and are allowed a maximum of 4 minutes. It is not a question and answer period and staff, and the Committee members do not generally respond to public comments. The City Clerk has a copy of the public speaking procedures; please note, speakers who engage in conduct injurious to the harmony of the meeting shall be called to order by the Presiding Officer and may forfeit the opportunity to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting will be held in an accessible location. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact The City Clerk Office, 150 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432 at (815) 724-3780.



City of Joliet

150 West Jefferson Street
Joliet, IL 60432

Memo

File #: TMP-9560

Agenda Date: 2/18/2026

City of Joliet

150 West Jefferson Street
Joliet, IL 60432



Meeting Minutes - Pending Approval

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

3:30 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers

Land Use & Economic Development Committee

Committee Members

Councilman Cesar Cardenas, Chairperson

Councilwoman Suzanna Ibarra

Councilman Pat Mudron

ROLL CALL

Also Present: Community Development Director Dustin Anderson, Economic Development Director Paulina Martinez, Planning Director Jayne Bernhard, Planner Helen Miller, Planner Francisco Jimenez, Corporation Council Todd Lenzie, Legal Assistant Katy Fyksen

Present Councilman Cesar Cardenas, Councilwoman Suzanna Ibarra and Councilman Pat Mudron

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Special Meeting Minutes 12.17.25

[TMP-9438](#)

Attachments: [Land Use Economic Development Committee 25-12-17 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Suzanna Ibarra, seconded by Councilman Pat Mudron, to approve Special Meeting Minutes 12.17.25. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Councilman Cardenas, Councilwoman Ibarra and Councilman Mudron

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS

Trista Brown- (who is the petitioner for the Honorary Street Name Designation for Reverend Larry Ellis Way (Wallace Street between Joliet Street and Ottawa Street)-) Spoke about Reverend Ellis and talked about his legacy and some of the organizations the reverend was part of. Ms. Brown talked about all the things Reverend Ellis did to help the city and people of the community.

Dorothy Arrington- The Sister of Reverend Larry Ellis spoke about the legacy of her brother, he love of religious life and his love of helping the community and love of God. Ms. Arrington is grateful to SpeakUp for the betterment of the community and the love of the city, and the city for honoring her brother.

Sandy Costa - member of SpeakUp Joliet spoke about the Reverend Larry Ellis and how much she loved how he listened to everything and gave what worked and didn't. She thanked the city for renaming the street for him.

Trista Brown spoke in Conclusion to Councilwoman Ibarra who knew the Reverend Ellis, about he would call the city in a charismatic way. He was a man of few words but a lot of action. Ms. Brown wants to thank Councilwoman Ibarra for being there and opening doors and she was the catalyst for a lot, she thanked her for her district.

Councilwoman Ibarra spoke about the Reverend Ellis, she did over 365 citizens views in her first 3 years as a Council person and he contributed to at least half of them, and things that needed to be done. It was always fun and entertaining. He was very involved in community, helping make sure things got done. Councilwoman Ibarra wrote a letter in support of the Street name designation; he was very important to her district.

AGENDA ITEMS

Honorary Street Name Designation for Reverend Larry Ellis Way (Wallace Street between Joliet Street and Ottawa Street)**[TMP-9380](#)**

Attachments: [Ellis Honorary Street - Land Use Memo.pdf](#)
 [Ellis Honorary Street Packet Redacted.pdf](#)
 [Resolution - Honorary Street Name Wallace St.docx](#)

The Public comments by the petitioner Trista Brown and others talked about the Reverend Larry Ellis and the street Dedication.

Councilwoman Ibarra also Spoke about the Rev Larry Ellis.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Suzanna Ibarra, seconded by Councilman Pat Mudron, to approve: Honorary Street Name Designation for Reverend Larry Ellis Way (Wallace Street between Joliet Street and Ottawa Street). The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Councilman Cardenas, Councilwoman Ibarra and Councilman Mudron

Resolution Conveying Twelve Properties to the Will County Habitat for Humanity, Inc.**[TMP-9451](#)**

Community Development Director Dustin Anderson spoke about the surplus properties and how the city is trying to strategically divest of some of these properties we have partnered with Habitat for Humanity. Habitat has gone through and identified 8 parcels that found to be readily buildable. The city would like to have a resolution that will allow us to convey those parcels to Habitat for Humanity at a Council Meeting in February.

Councilman Mudron asked about the Surplus lots and if they would be open for the public to bid on.

Mr. Anderson answered that they would not be open for the public to bid on or purchase that these properties. The decision was made that would be halting sales of the surplus properties until the comprehensive plan was completed. Most of the surplus properties were being sold to adjoining property owners, who were for the most part just using them for additional parking, and we are hoping we can incentivise people to build accessory dwellings once the zoning code is updated.

Councilwoman Ibarra asked what the value of the properties is. Mr. Anderson answered that we did not have the properties appraised, but that other properties have appraised at seven to eight thousand dollars each. So 50 to hundred thousand dollars in total for all 8 parcels. Councilwoman Ibarra would not be opposed to a few of the surplus lots be used for community gardens for more green space. Mr Anderson said there were many many lots.

Councilman Mudron asked if Habitat had looked at these lots, and Mr. Anderson

said they were vacant lots suitable for building.

Councilman Cardenas said that Habitat does amazing work and that it's good to see a plan moving forward.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Suzanna Ibarra, seconded by Councilman Pat Mudron, to approve: Resolution Conveying Twelve Properties to the Will County Habitat for Humanity, Inc. . The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Councilman Cardenas, Councilwoman Ibarra and Councilman Mudron

NEW OR OLD BUSINESS - NOT FOR FINAL ACTION OR RECOMMENDATION

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ibarra, seconded by Councilwoman Ibarra, to adjourn.. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Councilman Cardenas, Councilwoman Ibarra and Councilman Mudron

This meeting will be held in an accessible location. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact The City Clerk Office, 150 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432 at (815) 724-3780.



City of Joliet

150 West Jefferson Street
Joliet, IL 60432

Memo

File #: TMP-9510

Agenda Date: 2/18/2026

DATE: February 4, 2026
TO: Land Use and Economic Development Committee of the City Council
FROM: Helen Miller, Planner
CC: Jayne Bernhard, Planning Director
SUBJECT: Honorary Street Name Designation: Glenwood Avenue, between Hammes Avenue and Larkin Avenue, as Michael Austin Clark Way

BACKGROUND

The applicant, Shelley Clark, has submitted an honorary street name designation for Michael Austin Clark due to his extensive service and leadership within the Joliet community. Mr. Clark was a community advocate and leader who dedicated his time and energy to addressing social, educational, and economic inequities in Joliet and Will County. Mr. Clark served in many significant local roles, including as chairman of the African American Business Association of Will County and as president of the NAACP Joliet Branch. He was also substantially involved in the local school system, serving on the strategic planning committee for District 204, co-facilitating townhall meetings for District 204, and mentoring athletes, among other contributions.

Michael Austin Clark was committed to building and enhancing community relationships and to creating equitable opportunities within the school system, business community, and larger community. His humanitarian efforts toward economic empowerment, educational equity, and social justice have had a lasting positive impact on the community. In 2023, he posthumously received the J.D. Ross Extraordinary Service Award for Distinguished Public Service from Joliet Junior College, which is a high honor for individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service within the JJC district.

The honorary street name designation is for the section of Glenwood Avenue in front of Joliet West High School, between Larkin Avenue and Hammes Avenue. Mr. Clark was involved in District 204 in numerous ways and was an alumnus of Joliet West High School. The applicant is requesting that the requirement for signatures of 50 percent of the adjacent property owners be waived. The proposed section of Glenwood Avenue contains residential properties on its north side, and two additional commercial properties on the south side in addition to the high school. District 204 has submitted a letter of support for the honorary street name designation at this location.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the information provided, staff recommends that the Land Use and Economic Development Committee recommends approval of the honorary designation of Glenwood Avenue between Hammes Avenue and Larkin Avenue as "Michael Austin Clark Way."

Glenwood Avenue between Hammes Avenue and Larkin Avenue





Honorary Street Name Program Description & Application

POLICY:

The City of Joliet has established a policy with a review process and set of criteria for the designation of honorary street names in the City. Listed below are the purpose of the program; review criteria; detailed provisions of the program and the application form. The program is managed by the Department of Community Development. All supporting documentation is required at time of application submittal. The application will be reviewed by the Joliet Land Use & Legislative Committee who will make a recommendation to Joliet City Council for final review.

PURPOSE OF PROGRAM:

The City of Joliet honorary street name program is a means for honoring Joliet residents who have become well known for their civic, charitable, educational, or business contributions to the Joliet community. The honorary street name identifies a certain portion of a Joliet street with an individual name in honor of that person. The honorary street name supplements the permanent street name and does not change the permanent street name designation, nor does it require residents and businesses fronting on the street to change their address. There are also provisions in the program for honoring important local sites and events.

LIST OF CRITERIA:

The following list of criteria is used in determining eligibility for an honorary street name designation:

1. A site, event, or individual of known historic or cultural importance to the City;
2. Responsible for an accomplishment of local, regional, national or international significance;
3. Worked tirelessly for the benefit of the less fortunate of the community;
4. Exceptional involvement in church, school, service club or other organization which made Joliet a better place;
5. An individual with a distinguished career brought to the City or notable humanitarian achievement made while a resident of the City;
6. A site of national, regional, or local geographical interest.
7. A clear geographical relationship of the street to the area of interest of the nominee;
8. A clearly defined record of local community or public service made by the nominee.

APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS:

The following list describes the application process for an honorary street name designation:

1. The applicant must file a petition signed by 50% of property owners abutting the frontage to be dedicated as an honorary street;
2. The applicant shall pay a filing fee of \$120.00 to cover administration costs and the cost of the sign production;
3. The application will be reviewed and recommended by the Joliet Land Use & Legislative Committee with final approval by the Joliet City Council;
4. The Joliet City Council may authorize a waiver of the “50%” rule noted above on a case-by-case basis;
5. Nominations solely based on commercial or corporate-related identification shall not qualify for the program;
6. There shall be only one honorary street designation per street.
7. The honorary street designation shall not conflict with any other official street name.
8. Once the City Council approves the street name application, the Traffic Engineer/Engineering will produce a sign(s) for the street and place it where necessary on the roadway. An additional sign will be made and given to the applicant.

PLEASE FILL OUT THE ATTACHED APPLICATION

PETITION FOR HONORARY STREET NAME APPLICATION - JOLIET

Name of Honoree: Michael Austin Clark
(As it would appear on the street sign)

Proper Street Name: Glenwood Ave

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

Start at Larkin Ave through Hammes Ave

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

Michael Austin Clark was a devoted servant leader who served his community with diligence, integrity, and heart. He was deeply committed to uplifting and advocating for underrepresented communities, always working to create opportunities where they were most needed. Guided by a strong belief in equity, he championed fair and inclusive practices that left a lasting impact on those he served. Michael served in Joliet in many capacities. He was the president of the NAACP as well as ABBA.

Place

Michael Austin Clark was a proud Joliet West Alumni. In his adult years he spent much of his time working with district 204 co facilitating city townhall meetings, serving on the strategic planning committee, strategic sub planning committees, mentoring athletes, regularly attending numerous events such State of the District, Booster meetings, mentoring athletics etc. While in school Michael was a captin on the football team, played first base on the baseball team, in the symphonic band. Michael was a member of the National Honors society.

Event

Cultural Impact to the City:

Michael Austin Clark had a profound and lasting impact on the Joliet community through his servant leadership, advocacy, and unwavering commitment to equity. As a respected community leader, he used his voice to uplift underrepresented communities, champion educational equity, support youth mentorship, and promote economic empowerment. His leadership strengthened relationships across schools, organizations, and neighborhoods, leaving a legacy of compassion, justice, and positive change that continues to inspire Joliet today.

✕ Historical impact to the City:

Michael Austin Clark had a historic and lasting impact on the Joliet community through his leadership, advocacy, and dedication to civic engagement. As President of the Joliet NAACP, he championed civil rights and equity for underrepresented communities.

As President of the African American Business Association of Will County, he promoted economic empowerment and opportunity for minority-owned businesses. Additionally, his service on strategic planning committees for Joliet Township High School helped shape educational policies and initiatives that ensured equitable opportunities for students. Through these roles, Michael Austin Clark's vision, leadership, and commitment to justice left an enduring legacy on Joliet's social, educational, and economic landscape.

✕ Humanitarian efforts:

Michael Austin Clark's humanitarian efforts were defined by his unwavering commitment to uplifting others and improving the lives of those in his community. He dedicated his time, energy, and leadership to addressing social, educational, and economic inequities in Joliet and Will County. Through his work with youth mentorship programs, advocacy for educational equity and support of minority-owned businesses, he provided opportunities and resources for individuals and families who were often underserved. Michael's leadership in organizations such as the NAACP and the African American Business Association further amplified his humanitarian impact, as he fought for justice, fairness, and empowerment. His life was a testament to selfless service, compassion, and the belief that one person can make a lasting difference in the lives of many.

✕ Close association with Joliet:

Michael Austin Clark was born and raised in Joliet IL. Throughout his life, Michael dedicated himself to improving the city through leadership roles, mentorship, advocacy, and civic engagement, demonstrating a profound love for the community that shaped him. His enduring presence and contributions made him a cornerstone of Joliet's social, educational, and economic life.

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

Michael Austin Clark was a proud Joliet West Alumni. In his adult years he spent much of his time working with district 204 co facilitating city townhall meetings, serving on the strategic planning committee, strategic sub planning committees, mentoring athletes, regularly attending numerous events such State of the District, Booster meetings, mentoring athletics etc. Michael Austin Clark partnered with Joliet Township High School to help bridge gaps between the school district and the surrounding community. Through collaboration, trust, and open communication, he strengthened relationships and created meaningful connections that supported students and families.

___ Responsible for an accomplishment of local, regional, national of international significance:

Name of Honoree: Michael Austin Clark

Proper Street Name: Glenwood Avenue

Intersecting streets: Hammes Avenue and Larkin Avenue

Individual

Michael Austin Clark was a devoted servant leader who served his community with diligence, integrity, and heart. He was deeply committed to uplifting and advocating for underrepresented communities, always working to create opportunities where they were most needed. Guided by a strong belief in equity, he championed fair and inclusive practices that left a lasting impact on those he served. Michael served in Joliet in many capacities. He was the president of the NAACP as well as ABBA.

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Cultural Impact to the City

Michael Austin Clark had a profound and lasting impact on the Joliet community through his servant leadership, advocacy, and unwavering commitment to equity. As a respected community leader, he used his voice to uplift underrepresented communities, champion educational equity, support youth mentorship, and promote economic empowerment. His leadership strengthened relationships across schools, organizations, and neighborhoods, leaving a legacy of compassion, justice, and positive change that continues to inspire Joliet today.

Historical Impact to the City Of Joliet

Michael Austin Clark had a historic and lasting impact on the Joliet community through his leadership, advocacy, and dedication to civic engagement. As President of the Joliet NAACP, he championed civil rights and equity for underrepresented communities. As President of the African American Business Association of Will County, he promoted economic empowerment and opportunity for minority-owned businesses. Additionally, his service on strategic planning committees for Joliet Township High School helped shape educational policies and initiatives that ensured equitable opportunities for students. Through these roles, Michael Austin Clark's vision, leadership, and commitment to justice left an enduring legacy on Joliet's social, educational, and economic landscape.

Humanitarian Efforts

Michael Austin Clark's humanitarian efforts were defined by his unwavering commitment to uplifting others and improving the lives of those in his community. He dedicated his time, energy, and leadership to addressing social, educational, and economic inequities in Joliet and Will County. Through his work with youth mentorship programs, advocacy for educational equity

and support of minority-owned businesses, he provided opportunities and resources for individuals and families who were often underserved. Michael's leadership in organizations such as the NAACP and the African American Business Association further amplified his humanitarian impact, as he fought for justice, fairness, and empowerment. His life was a testament to selfless service, compassion, and the belief that one person can make a lasting difference in the lives of many.

Close Association with Joliet

Michael Austin Clark was born and raised in Joliet IL. Throughout his life, Michael dedicated himself to improving the city through leadership roles, mentorship, advocacy, and civic engagement, demonstrating a profound love for the community that shaped him. His enduring presence and contributions made him a cornerstone of Joliet's social, educational, and economic life.

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

Michael Austin Clark was a proud Joliet West Alumni. In his adult years he spent much of his time working with district 204 co facilitating city townhall meetings, serving on the strategic planning committee, strategic sub planning committees, mentoring athletes, regularly attending numerous events such as State of the District, Booster meetings, mentoring athletics etc. Michael Austin Clark partnered with Joliet Township High School to help bridge gaps between the school district and the surrounding community. Through collaboration, trust, and open communication, he strengthened relationships and created meaningful connections that supported students and families.

I, Shelley Clark, 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: _____



Date: 1/29/26



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of January, 2026



Applicant's Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

E-mail Address: _____

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



Joliet Township High School - District 204

Dr. Karla Guseman
Superintendent
815/727-6970
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Educational Services
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300 Caterpillar Drive
Joliet, IL 60436
www.jths.org

January 21, 2026

Dear City of Joliet Officials,

On behalf of Joliet Township High School District 204, I am writing to formally acknowledge the request to designate **Glenwood Avenue between Larkin Avenue and Hammes Street** as **Michael Austin Clark Way**.

The Joliet Township High School District 204 Board of Education has reviewed this request and has **voted in full agreement and support of this honor**. We believe this designation is both appropriate and meaningful in recognition of the significant impact Michael Austin Clark had on Joliet Township High School and the greater Joliet community.

Michael Austin Clark demonstrated unwavering commitment to service, leadership, and advocacy. His work and dedication to Joliet Township High School left a lasting legacy that continues to positively influence students, families, and staff. Honoring him in this way reflects the deep appreciation and respect our district holds for his contributions.

Please let us know if any additional information or documentation is needed as this process moves forward. We look forward to joining the City of Joliet in celebrating this well-deserved honor in the future.

Thank you for your consideration and continued partnership.

Sincerely,



Dr. Karla Guseman, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Joliet Township High School District 204

The mission of Joliet Township High School, a historically rich, inclusive, and innovative learning community that values and embraces diversity, is to maximize every student's potential to positively impact our community and thrive in a global society by providing an equitable, personalized, and rigorous education.

Joliet Township High School ensures equal educational opportunities are offered to students, regardless of race, color, national origin, age, gender, religion, disability, veteran's status, or marital status.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN HONORARY STREET
NAME DESIGNATION FOR MICHAEL AUSTIN CLARK WAY
(Glenwood Avenue, between Hammes Avenue and Larkin Avenue)**

WHEREAS, Michael Austin Clark was a community advocate and leader who dedicated his time and energy to addressing social, educational, and economic inequities within the Joliet community; and

WHEREAS, Michael Austin Clark served with many local groups and held leadership roles as chairman of the African American Business Association of Will County and the president of the NAACP Joliet Branch; and

WHEREAS, Michael Austin Clark, an alumnus of Joliet West High School, was significantly involved with the local school districts and served on the strategic planning committee for District 204, co-facilitated townhall meetings for District 204, and served as a mentor to athletes; and

WHEREAS, the requirement is waived for the signatures of approximately 50% of the adjoining property owners for the honorary street name designation to Michael Austin Clark 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 Glenwood Avenue between Hammes Avenue and Larkin Avenue to be designated as “Michael Austin Clark 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 _____, 2026

MAYOR

CITY CLERK

VOTING YES: _____

VOTING NO: _____

NOT VOTING: _____