



## *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: Reverend Larry Ellis  
(As it would appear on the street sign)

Proper Street Name: ~~South Joliet Street~~

Wallace Street (between South Joliet Street and South Ottawa Street) HM 12/7/25

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

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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**

Exceptional involvement with St. Mark C.M.E. Church and community initiatives. Active involvement and Lead for various initiatives with Speak Up Organization (Community Outreach)

**Place**

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**Event**

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**Cultural Impact to the City:**

• Activist with "Speak Up & Vote"

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Historical impact to the City:

✓ Humanitarian efforts:

- Speak Up Margaret Graves Humanitarian Award
- Served on various Community Boards working with underserved neighborhoods and for community safety and improvement

✓ Close association with Joliet:

- Lifelong resident of Joliet South-end area.
- Community activist of Joliet

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

- 30+ year resident on South Joliet Street
- Longtime member and Ordained Minister at St. Mark C.M.E. Church on South Joliet St.

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

- Led community protests in effort to continue the call for ending racism and police racial profiling / brutality against people of color.



Petition for Street naming

60 Wallace St Joliet IL

59 WALLACE SS Joliet IL

- 1.
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5.

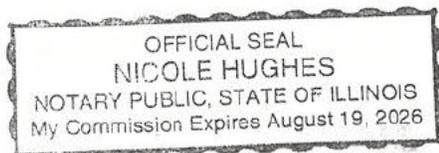
I, Trista Brown

**Attach additional sheets if necessary**

, 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 & Economic Development Committee.

Signature of Applicant: Trista Brown

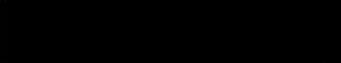
Date: 10-20-2025



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20 day of October, 2025



Applicant's Address: 

Phone No.: 

E-mail Address: 

Submit completed form to:

City of Joliet  
Planning Division  
150 W. Jefferson Street  
Joliet, IL 60432  
Phone: (815)724-4050  
Email: zoning@joliet.gov

City of Joliet Web Site: [Joliet.gov](http://Joliet.gov)



Jaron Nabors  
Founder of 2morrowstartz2day



May 14, 2025

To Whom This May Concern,

My name is Jaron Nabors Sr., I'm the founder of the organization called 2morrowstartz2day. I'm writing this letter of Recommendation to have Reverend Larry Ellis name added to Joliet Street. Reverend Ellis was very involved in his community in a myriad of ways. He has assisted me with events I have had for my organization, and attended meetings. Whatever I needed to have at the church he allowed my organization, he didn't turn me away or anyone. I'm writing this letter stating I'm in favor of his name being added to Joliet Street.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at my email address  or Phone number 

Sincerely,

Jaron Nabors Sr



# *Saint Mark Christian Methodist Episcopal Church*

*“Cornerstone of the Gary District”*

*348 S. Joliet St Joliet, IL 60436 (815) 483-8426*

*Email: [stmarkchurchjoliet@gmail.com](mailto:stmarkchurchjoliet@gmail.com)*

*Rev. Cameron J. Moore, Pastor*

*Rev. Dr. Curlee L. Adams, Presiding Elder*

*Bishop Sylvester Williams, Sr. Presiding Prelate*

## **Rev. Cameron J Moore**

Pastor of St Mark CME Church

348 Soth Joliet St

Joliet, IL 60436



**5/11/2025**

### **To Whom It May Concern,**

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend that South Joliet Street be renamed in honor of Rev. Larry Ellis for his outstanding services to our community.

Rev. Larry Ellis was a community leader, veteran, and activist whose impact continues to resonate among South End locals. Throughout his life, he displayed a strong commitment to improving our society through community involvement, advocacy, public service, and mentorship.

In addition to his own achievements, Rev. Larry was a popular figure in the community, recognized for his honesty, compassion, Stewart leadership, and reliability. Naming a roadway after Rev. Larry Ellis will celebrate his incredible legacy while also serving as a permanent reminder to future generations of the principles he advocated for.

I totally support this idea and strongly urge the relevant authorities to approve the renaming of South Joliet St. in his honor. It would be an appropriate tribute to someone who has contributed so much to our community.

Thank you for considering this suggestion.



Sincerely,

Rev. Cameron J. Moore,

Senior Pastor of St. Mark CME Church

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**Fw: Rev Larry Ellis**

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TRISTA BROWN [REDACTED]

Fri, Oct 17, 2025 at 7:45 AM

Reply-To: TRISTA BROWN [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Can u print this for me

Yahoo Mail: [Search](#), [Organize](#), [Conquer](#)

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** "Suzanna Ibarra" [REDACTED]

**To:** "Trista Brown" [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thu, Oct 16, 2025 at 9:18 PM

**Subject:** Rev Larry Ellis

I am honored to take this opportunity to recognize and celebrate The memory of Reverend Larry Ellis for his unwavering dedication and impactful service to our neighborhood here in Joliet, Illinois. Through his genuine compassion, leadership, and active involvement, Reverend Larry has truly made a difference in the lives of many residents.

Reverend Larry has been a steadfast advocate for improving our community's well-being. His efforts extend beyond the spiritual guidance he provides at his church—he has taken proactive steps to foster unity, safety, and development within our neighborhood. Whether organizing community clean-up events, supporting local initiatives, or simply being a positive presence on the streets, Reverend Larry's commitment shines through in every endeavor.

His vision for a stronger, more connected neighborhood has inspired countless residents to come together and work towards common goals. He has also worked tirelessly to establish programs that aid families, promote youth engagement, and uplift those facing challenges. Reverend Larry's kindness and determination continue to serve as a beacon of hope and progress for all of us.

We are grateful for his heartfelt service and the genuine love he shows for our community. His contributions exemplify the power of dedicated leadership and the importance of caring for one another.

Thank you, Reverend Larry Ellis for your countless hours, your compassionate spirit, and your unwavering belief in the potential of Joliet.

We miss you !

With Sincerity ,  
Suzanna Ibarra  
Joliet City Council District 5



# NDEN

New Day Employment Network

## Rev Larru Ellis Tribute

Rev. Ellis exemplified the spirit of second chances, dedicating himself to providing opportunities for individuals to create lasting community change. I had the pleasure of meeting him through Trista Browne events, and we formed a lasting bond over our shared values. He graciously allowed my organization to host a summer reading group for children at St. Mark, even organizing a barbecue catered by the church's men's group for our summer program attendees. My admiration for Rev. Ellis extends beyond his generous support, as he consistently demonstrated his commitment to empowering individuals driven to effect positive change. As a quiet yet observant leader, he chose his words wisely, speaking only when necessary. Recognizing his contributions to the south end community through this street naming is a fitting tribute. Though he may be gone, his legacy will never be forgotten.

Forever Grateful,

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**SpeakUp** presents this Resolution of Respect for **Rev. Larry Ellis**.

We salute with great appreciation and love his ability to influence others in a positive way. He was the president of the Southside Neighborhood Association starting in 2015. He was a board member and active member of SpeakUp! – our non-profit organization. He joined in 2019. In 2021, he was given our Margaret Graves Humanitarian Award. He worked with Speak Up and Vote in the effort to bring voter registration to inmates of the Will County jail. He was a voter registrar. In April of 2021, he arranged a candidates' forum at St. Mark's for SpeakUp: our Last Chance forum, Take the Gloves Off. In July 2023, he led our Fatherhood Summit as part of our Empowerment series. In spring of this year, Jewel Robinson benefitted from Larry's mapping skills as part of the search for her son in an action for of Break the Silence, Awake the Truth. He inspired a program that was to launch this summer, Fishers of Life. Larry loved fishing and wanted to take young men and women out to learn. He also was spearheading a series of etiquette lessons for young men. He wanted to show how simple activities and skills can diffuse anger and create peace instead of chaos. We will continue his dream of building a better community and better connections. We love Rev. Larry Ellis—his beautiful smile, deep laugh, and gentle ways. We will miss him and the way he loved life and the way he loved God.

7/29/2024

**DATE:** January 12, 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: Wallace Street, between Joliet Street and Ottawa Street, as Reverend Larry Ellis Way

### **BACKGROUND**

The applicant, Trista Brown, has submitted an application for an honorary street name designation for Reverend Larry Ellis due to his dedication to and involvement with the local community, specifically the South End community. According to the application and letters of support, Reverend Ellis was a community leader and activist who worked consistently to improve the community, promote social justice, and provide support to local initiatives and organizations. He was a longtime member and ordained minister of St. Mark C.M.E. Church, located on South Joliet Street. He served on various boards and committees, including the non-profit organization SpeakUp, which awarded him their Margaret Graves Humanitarian Award in 2021. Reverend Ellis endeavored to promote community connections and empower individuals by helping establish programs that promoted advocacy, mentorship, and youth engagement, among other topics.

Reverend Ellis was a lifelong resident of the Joliet South End community. The honorary street name designation is for the section of Wallace Street between Joliet Street and Ottawa Street. This location is near St. Mark C.M.E. Church. The petitioner requests that the requirement for signatures of 50 percent of the adjacent property owners be waived. The section of Wallace Street is short and has only five properties with frontage along the section. The petitioner has obtained at least one signature for this street section and several other signatures from residents of the area.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Based on the information provided, staff recommends that the Land Use and Economic Development Committee recommends approval of the honorary designation of Wallace Street between Joliet Street and Ottawa Street as “Reverend Larry Ellis Way.”

Wallace Street between Joliet Street and Ottawa Street

