

Milwaukee Ald. Johnson: Renaming will be a reminder and a tribute

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Statement from Alderman Johnson on Vel R. Phillips anteroom proposal

It is with great honor that I reflect on my colleagues' passage Tuesday of a resolution to rename the Common Council anteroom in honor of Vel R. Phillips. I would like to thank Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs for helping me champion this initiative. I would also like to thank my fellow Council members for their support in a unanimous passage.

Since her recent passing, so much has been said about the life of consequence Ms. Phillips lived and her numerous achievements that laid the foundation for every African-American elected into office in Milwaukee. She has no doubt been an inspiration for my colleagues and me. Therefore, we find it fitting that the anteroom — which is an entrance to the council chambers — be renamed to always inspire us as we continue to make change while honoring her legacy.

Additionally, as the anteroom is utilized for meetings, receptions, news conferences and other events, this renaming will provide reverence for Ms. Phillips to members of the public who gather there. And I look forward to our upcoming, special dedication event that will be held in the room in honor of her.