

**Louisville Metro Council City Agency Request**  
**Neighborhood Development Fund (NDF)**  
**■ Capital Infrastructure Fund (CIF)**  
**Municipal Aid Program (MAP)**  
**Paving Fund (PAV)**

**Primary Sponsor:** Councilwoman Donna Purvis, Metro Council District 5

**Amount:** \$188.00 **Date:** 04/26/2022

**Description of program/project including public purpose, additional funding sources, location of project/program and any external grantee(s):**

Funds requested are to be directed to Public Works & Assets, Signs & Markings for the cost associated with the fabrication and installation of one (1) Honorary Street Sign honoring "Benetha Ellis." Ms. Ellis resided at 100 S 45th Street which is on the corner of 45th and Main Streets close to that residence. The sign is to read "Benetha Ellis Way".


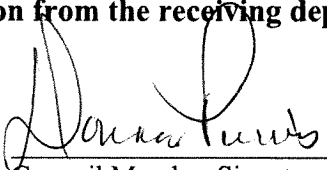
Sign and installation cost: \$188.00

**City Agency:** Public Works & Assets, Signs & Markings

**Contact Person:** William Hines, Labor Supervisor

**Agency Phone:** 502.794.6862

**I have reviewed this request for an expenditure of city tax dollars, and have determined the funds will be used for a public purpose and have the attached documentation from the receiving department concerning the project/expenditure.**

5			\$188.00	04/26/2022
District #		Council Member Signature	Amount	Date

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Appropriations Committee Chairman Date

**Clerk's Office & OMB Use Only:**

Request Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Amended Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference #: CIF060122PW05C To OMB: \_\_\_\_\_

Budget Revision #: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

To Project Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Actual Cost: \_\_\_\_\_ Funds Returned: \_\_\_\_\_

**Department/Project:**  
Public Works/Honorary Street Sign - Benetha Ellis Way

**Additional Signatures**

I have reviewed this request for an expenditure of city tax dollars, and have determined the funds will be used for a public purpose.

**Council Member Signature and Amount**

District 1	_____	\$ _____
District 2	_____	\$ _____
District 3	_____	\$ _____
District 4	_____	\$ _____
District 5	_____	\$ _____
District 6	_____	\$ _____
District 7	_____	\$ _____
District 8	_____	\$ _____
District 9	_____	\$ _____
District 10	_____	\$ _____
District 11	_____	\$ _____
District 12	_____	\$ _____
District 13	_____	\$ _____
District 14	_____	\$ _____
District 15	_____	\$ _____
District 16	_____	\$ _____
District 17	_____	\$ _____
District 18	_____	\$ _____
District 19	_____	\$ _____
District 20	_____	\$ _____
District 21	_____	\$ _____
District 22	_____	\$ _____
District 23	_____	\$ _____
District 24	_____	\$ _____
District 25	_____	\$ _____
District 26	_____	\$ _____

## NDF, CIF, MAP OR PAV INTERAGENCY CHECKLIST

**Interagency Name:** Public Works & Assets, Signs & Markings

**Program/Project Name:** Honorary Street Sign: Benetha Ellis Way

	Yes/No/NA	
<b>Request Form:</b> Is the Request Signed by all Council Member(s) Appropriating Funding?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Request Form:</b> If matching funds are to be used, are they disclosed with account numbers in the request form description?	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Request Form:</b> If matching funds are to be used, does the amount of the request exclude the matching fund amount?	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Request Form:</b> If other funds are to be used for this project, are they disclosed with account numbers in the request form description?	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Funding Source:</b> If CIF is being requested, does Metro Louisville own/will own the real estate, building or equipment? If not, the funding source is probably NDF.	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Funding Source:</b> If CIF is being requested, does the project have a useful life of more than one year? If not, the funding source is probably NDF.	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Ordinance Required:</b> Is the NDF request to a Metro Agency greater than \$5,000? If so, an ordinance is required.	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Ordinance Required:</b> Is the request a transfer from NDF to cost center? If so, is the amount given for the fiscal year \$25,000 or less?	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Supporting Documentation:</b> Does the attachment include a valid estimate and description of cost?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Submitted by:** Donna Purvis, Metro Council District 5

**Date:** 04/26/2022

## Harward, Sonya

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**From:** Berry, Patricia  
**Sent:** Monday, May 2, 2022 3:13 PM  
**To:** Harward, Sonya  
**Subject:** FW: Honorary Street Sign - Benetha Ellis

Mr. Hines' fund acceptance.

**From:** Hines, William A <William.Hines@louisvilleky.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 2, 2022 3:12 PM  
**To:** Berry, Patricia <patricia.berry@louisvilleky.gov>  
**Cc:** Hall, Barbara C <Barbara.Hall@louisvilleky.gov>; Roades, Bonnie J <Bonnie.Roades@louisvilleky.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Honorary Street Sign - Benetha Ellis

Yes, we will.

Thanks,

**William A. Hines III**

Labor Supervisor  
Louisville Metro Public Works & Assets  
Signs & Markings Division  
3507 Newburg Rd  
Louisville, KY 40218  
Phone: (502) 794-6862  
Fax: (502) 458-4868  
<https://louisvilleky.gov/>



**From:** Berry, Patricia <[patricia.berry@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:patricia.berry@louisvilleky.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 2, 2022 12:31 PM  
**To:** Hines, William A <[William.Hines@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:William.Hines@louisvilleky.gov)>  
**Subject:** Honorary Street Sign - Benetha Ellis

Good afternoon Mr. Hines!

We are requesting CIF funds to be directed to Public Works & Assets, Signs & Markings for the cost associated with the making of and installation of 1 Honorary Street Sign at the cost of \$188. The primary sponsor is Councilwoman Donna Purvis, Metro Council District 5. Will you accept the funds?

The street sign is to read "Benetha Ellis Way" and is to be positioned on the corner of 45<sup>th</sup> & Main Streets; Ms. Ellis resided at 100 S 45<sup>th</sup>, the corner house. The County Attorney's office will be drafting the associated Resolution. Thank you!

Trish

**Trish Berry, Staff Helper**

Office of Councilwoman Donna Purvis, D-5  
601 W Jefferson Street | Louisville, KY 40202  
502-574-1105

June 7, 2020

Councilwoman Donna Purvis and Associates:

I am Maya White. Granddaughter of Benetha Ellis. Resident of District 5, West Louisville Kentucky.

Benetha Ellis has been a resident and home owner of District 5, West Louisville Kentucky for over 45 years. Benetha Ellis has raised three children, six grandchildren, and three great grandchildren at 100 South 45<sup>th</sup> Street, on the corner of Main and 45<sup>th</sup> Street in the Shawnee Neighborhood.

Benetha Ellis is a well-rounded community woman known for her activism in the 60's, specifically organizing and confronting the racialized busing integration in Louisville, KY. Her work and efforts have been documented in the University of Louisville Anne Braden Archives and cited in oral history projects that highlight busing activists in 1975. Her response to the racial harassment and abuse of Black students led Benetha to co-organize the group United Black Protective Parents. American Radio Works quotes Benetha saying, "If we had to burst into a classroom, that's what we did. If we had to burst into a principal's office, that's what we did. If we had to burst onto a bus, that's what we did." <sup>1</sup>

Benetha's activism has been cited and recognized in many historical and scholarly projects of her work that addressed social problems in public housing projects with Black communities in the 60's and 70's. For example, Aletia Robey (2014) shares:

"With the help of activists-minded women such as Georgia Eugene and Benetha Ellis and Lula Hodges, all paid community organizers through CAC, Southwick and Cotter Homes residents began a larger project to establish new offices in the Park DuValle Neighborhood Service Center. This center already provided low-income community members with a few social service programs, but the expansion of the center was aimed at assisting with increasing rent payments, eliminating the lack of access to healthcare, and providing opportunities to attend job training programs." <sup>2</sup>

Benetha Ellis was a woman with grassroots initiatives for the betterment of Black Louisville. She was on the frontlines of desegregation deep and haunting racist veil. She organized with the people of Louisville to gather resources, while simultaneously building community power. Her activism continued over time, as I got to witness and protest along side with her in the past over her beliefs for the upliftment of her community.

This year, my Mema is turning 84 years old on June 26<sup>th</sup>. As an African-American Studies Master of Arts scholar, cultural worker, and UofL Pan African Studies alumna, I feel indebted to commemorate my Grandmother by applying for her name to appear above the street our family calls home. Her activism is not just a memory but a monument to our community. Countless leaders and community members frequently check in on my grandmother as she lays in hospice comfortably in her home on 45<sup>th</sup> Street.

She deserves a physical commemoration.

I want to be sure that her legacy and passion for selfless service continues to shine in West Louisville, especially the place we all call home. I want her to see the impact her voice made on generations and how that impact will always be with us.

On behalf of the Ellis family, I am applying for Main Street, within the geographical distance of 45<sup>th</sup> Street and Shawnee Terrace to be honored in the name of Benetha Ellis.

With deep and sincere interest,

Maya White  
Resident, District 5  
Email: [mmwhit13@gmail.com](mailto:mmwhit13@gmail.com)

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#### Cited

- 1 <http://americanradioworks.publicradio.org/features/deseg/a1.html>
- 2 Robey, Aletia M., "The bricks in action : women's public housing activism in Louisville, Kentucky, 1958-1970." (2014). Electronic Theses and Dissertations. Paper 1215. <https://doi.org/10.18297/etd/1215>

#### Other References to Benetha Ellis' activism

- Small interview clip <https://soundcloud.com/sohp/ellis-benetha>
- FULL interview here with transcription <https://gate.sc/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fdc.lib.unc.edu%2Fcdm%2Fcompou%2Fcollection%2Fsohp%2Fid%2F7355%2Frec%2F1&token=ff4c0-1-1580835828596>
- Legal casein UofL Archives, you will have to go to the UofL Library to see this information. [https://archivescatalog.library.louisville.edu/repositories/2/archival\\_objects/4697](https://archivescatalog.library.louisville.edu/repositories/2/archival_objects/4697)

Appendix: Archival Political Campaign Materials

**Benetha**

**"Harvey"**

**Ellis**

About Our Candidate:

Experience:

Lifetime Resident of  
Louisville, Kentucky

Central High School  
Graduate Class of 1954

Mother of three children

Member of New Zion  
Baptist Church

Six brothers & two sisters

Presently A Volunteer  
Probation Officer

Community Involved

Head Start Aide

Neighborhood Worker

Office Manager

Center Supervisor

Inspector For The  
City's Sanitation Dept.

Commissioner At Park  
DuValle Service Center

Community Action Board

Plymouth Urban Center  
Board.

"I have no other  
self interest or  
political aspiration  
other than serving  
my community  
honestly and  
effectively."

Platform:

- Employment
- Health Care
- Housing • Youth
- Senior Citizens
- Economic & Community  
Development

Paid for by the  
Benetha Ellis Campaign Fund  
Loretta Jefferson, Treasurer

**VOTE**

Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>

for "A Voice —  
Instead of  
An Echo!"

Pull Lever #2  
Benetha "Harvey"

**Ellis**

12<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman

