



Date August 21, 2023

INITIAL CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR HONORARY NAMING OF 13TH STREET BETWEEN GRAND AVENUE AND LOCUST STREET AS "WORLD RECORD WAY"

WHEREAS, a petition has been received from Drake University requesting that the City street located at 13th Street between Grand Avenue and Locust Street be named "World Record Way" in honor of the historic finish line of the Grand Blue Mile road race; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Council policy adopted on May 4, 2009, the City Council of the City of Des Moines shall receive and give initial consideration to such request.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, that upon initial consideration of the aforementioned request to name the City street located at 13th Street between Grand Avenue and Locust Street be named "World Record Way" in honor of the historic finish line of the Grand Blue Mile road race, the Council hereby REFERS such request to the Plan and Zoning Commission for further review in accordance with the Council policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that following review, the recommendation of said Department and Board/Commission shall be returned to Council for final consideration.

MOVED BY TO ADOPT. SECOND BY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/ Chas M. Cahill
Chas M. Cahill
Assistant City Attorney

Table with 5 columns: COUNCIL ACTION, YEAS, NAYS, PASS, ABSENT. Rows include COWNIE, BOESEN, GATTO, SHEUMAKER, MANDELBAUM, VOSS, WESTERGAARD, TOTAL, MOTION CARRIED, APPROVED, Mayor.

CERTIFICATE
I, Laura Baumgartner, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.
City Clerk



PRESENTED BY  XTREAM
POWERED BY Mediacom.

Drake University Athletics

2507 University Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50311-4505
T 515-271-2114
F 515-271-4870
www.DrakeRelays.org

Honorable Members of the Des Moines City Council,
Des Moines City Hall
400 Robert D. Ray Dr
Des Moines, IA 50309

Subject: Request for Honorary Street Name - "World Record Way"

Dear Members of the Des Moines City Council,

I write on behalf of the organizing committee for the Grand Blue Mile and the Drake Relays to formally request the honorary naming of 13th Street as "World Record Way". The designation would encompass the segment between Grand Avenue and Locust Street, marking the finish line of the Grand Blue Mile.

The Grand Blue Mile, presented by Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield, has been held annually since 2010 and is a celebration of health, wellness, and personal achievement. Since its inception, this one-mile run/walk in Downtown Des Moines has remained accessible to all ages and abilities. In addition to engaging thousands of runners and walkers from across the Midwest each year, the Grand Blue Mile also regularly features America's most accomplished professional milers, as the event has partnered with USA Track & Field to host the national USATF 1 Mile Road Championships on nine occasions.

In 2023, World Athletics, the international governing body of track and field and road running, announced that an official world record for the road mile would be introduced beginning on January 1. Event organizers for the Grand Blue Mile diligently ensured that the course met all criteria for World Record ratification, setting the stage for an esteemed field of American athletes aspiring to make history. Notably, this year's event potentially played host to the establishment of *two* world records set by Sam Praker and Nikki Hiltz, with times of 4:02 and 4:28, respectively. Pending ratification from World Athletics beginning on September 1, it is anticipated that these inaugural world records will be held by American athletes who set them here in Downtown Des Moines as part of the 14th Annual Grand Blue Mile on April 25, 2023.

Recognizing the historical significance of these achievements and the pride it brings to our city, we propose celebrating these feats of incredible athleticism through the honorary naming of 13th Street as "World Record Way" between Grand Avenue and Locust Street. This designation would serve to celebrate the proud legacy of the Grand Blue Mile and cement Downtown Des Moines as the place where history was – and will continue to be – made .

Thank you for thoughtfully considering this request and your continued support of the Grand Blue Mile as a cornerstone event in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Blake Boldon".

America's Athletic Classic

Blake Boldon

Franklin P. Johnson Director