

My name is Raquel Palacios and I live at 906 Prospect Street. I am in opposition to renaming Prospect Street to Louise Hunter Avenue.

I recently celebrated my 50th birthday and on that day I reflected upon my life: the ups, the downs, the celebrations, milestones, family gatherings all celebrated at our house on Prospect Street.

My parents were migrant workers who traveled across the country harvesting various crops. My parents chose to permanently reside in Racine- my dad working in foundries and factories and my mom a home maker and mother to 8 children. They took pride in buying this property and house and worked many years afterwards to pay off the mortgage and keeping the property up so that it was as my Dad said to be "the prettiest in the neighborhood"

While our street name may not mean much to many people, to me it has sentimental value and many memories. I always returned to my home on Prospect Street: after college, while in Graduate School, commuting from jobs in Milwaukee, Whitewater, and Kenosha. When my dad was diagnosed with end stage cancer, I returned home to help care from him and after he passed, I stayed here to care for my mom. My husband and I have celebrated 21 wedding anniversaries here and we work to upkeep the house and maintain the yard so that it stays as my dad would say, the prettiest yard in the house. While we can afford to purchase a more expensive property in the county, I grew up in the City of Racine and I work in the City of Racine and I take pride in the City of Racine.

Changing the street name would require me to change my address on various accounts, Drivers license, contacting family members and friends across the country and internationally, of the change in the street name. All current residents on Prospect Street would be required to do the same thing.

Love and Charity Mission was not located on Prospect Street but was located on Douglas Avenue. It used to house Cristo Rey Center where I and other children in the neighborhood received catechism classes. The mission did not necessarily benefit the residents of Prospect Street either but rather residents from other streets in the area. So, why change Prospect Street? Why not name a park or service program in her honor? Why not develop a fund for the homeless her name or develop a scholarship fund for students who are homeless or those studying to work with the homeless?

I do not stand opposed to honoring Ms. Hunter's work but in opposition to changing the name of the street I grew up on and currently live on. I ask that another way to honor her work be consider—one that would not cause imposition and hassle for residents of this street.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my concerns.