



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN
BOARD OF ALDERS**

Troy Streater
Alder, Ward 21

428 Dixwell Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511-1703

Member
Black and Hispanic Caucus
City Services & Environmental Policy Committee
Health and Human Services Committee
Public Safety Committee

Telephone: (203) 494-3642
E-mail: Ward21@newhavenct.gov

October 6, 2025

Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers
President, New Haven Board of Alders
165 Church Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06510

Dear President Walker-Myers:

I respectfully submit the attached communication requesting that the New Haven Board of Alders designate the corner of Redfield Street and Columbus Avenue as “Wilhelmina and James A. Perkins Corner.” This dedication would honor, in perpetuity, two beloved and esteemed members of our community whose lives embodied service, dignity, and compassion.

James A. Perkins—born July 7, 1928, in Cuthbert, Georgia, to Johnnie Mae West-Ellis, a school teacher, and Alex “Buddy” Perkins, a funeral director and mortician—served honorably in the Korean War and later pursued higher education at Morehouse College and the Atlanta School of Embalming. Equally integral to that legacy is Wilhelmina V. Hilton Perkins, a licensed funeral director who worked alongside her husband in the operation of Perkins Funeral Home. Her professional expertise, steady leadership, and compassionate presence strengthened the institution’s reputation for excellence and expanded its impact across New Haven. As Mr. Perkins’s faithful partner in life, love, and service, Mrs. Perkins helped build a family and a public witness grounded in faith, dignity, and care for others.

Together, Wilhelmina and James A. Perkins strengthened the fabric of New Haven providing leadership, fellowship, and quiet acts of service that touched generations. Naming this corner in their honor ensures that their contributions and sacrifices are remembered by all who pass through this gateway of our city.

I wholeheartedly support the designation of “Wilhelmina and James A. Perkins Corner” at Redfield Street and Columbus Avenue and respectfully encourage the Board’s approval.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hon. Troy Streater
Alder, Ward 21

