

City Commission Honors King

John Roche
Free Press

Seventeenth Street will become Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive at the request of the Manhattan Martin Luther King Memorial Committee. Manhattan City Mayor Ed Klimek signed the official proclamation at the City Commission meeting this week making the name change official.

In a letter from Committee members, Rev. Jim Spencer and John Patrick Harty seeking the honorary street designation it was also noted

that King gave one of his last speeches at Ahearn Field House. That speech took place just three months before his death on April 4th 1968. The letter also indicated that this would follow a trend with hundreds of communities giving similar honorary designation.

Jeff Hancock, P.E., Director of Public Works presented the proposal to the City Commission stating that changing the name completely would lead to complications for residents and businesses along the 17th St., who would need to change mail-

ing addresses, as well a phone book listing. The change might also lead to confusion for visitors, since 17th Street is also the main route from Ft. Riley Blvd. to Kansas State University.

City Administration also recommended that the designation be honorary and that a possible signage option would be placing the honorary name on the signal masts at Anderson Ave. and Ft. Riley Blvd. This option would allow drivers to maintain their focus on the road ahead instead of to the sides.

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VF: King, Martin Luther, Sr.