



City of Chicago



O2023-261

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	1/18/2023
Sponsor(s):	Lee (11)
Type:	Ordinance
Title:	Honorary street designation as "Honorary Mike 'The Hot Dog Man' Knabjian Way"
Committee(s) Assignment:	Committee on Transportation and Public Way

City Council
January 18, 2023
Transportation and Public Way

ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

SECTION 1: Pursuant to an ordinance heretofore passed by the City Council which allows erection of honorary street signs, the Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Transportation shall take necessary action for standardization of South 32nd Place, at West Aberdeen Street, southeast corner, as Honorary Mike "The Hot Dog Man" Knabjian Way.

SECTION 2: This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole T. Lee", written over a horizontal line.

Nicole T. Lee
Alderman, 11th Ward

"THE HOT DOG MAN," MICHAEL KNABJIAN, 84

Services for Michael Knabjian, 84, who sold hot dogs and tamales on the streets of his Bridgeport neighborhood for 65 years, will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday in the chapel at 1059 W. 32nd Street. He died at home Thursday.

For the last 50 years--winter and summer, rain or shine--"Mike The Hot Dog Man" stood on the corner of 32nd Place and Aberdeen Street, most recently selling hot dogs to the grandchildren of those to whom he gave free ones during the Depression.

"In our neighborhood, `Mike-the-hot-dog-man` was pronounced as one word," said Johnice Stanislawski, who grew up in Bridgeport. "If someone asked him for a pop or fries, you knew they weren't from around here. He sold only hot dogs and tamales and everyone knew that."

"People would come and order a hot dog from him 10 or 20 years after they had grown up and moved out of the neighborhood," another resident said. "That all right,` he would interrupt them as they began to describe their order, `I remember what you like on it.`"

Several years ago, Bridgeport residents besieged a local radio station that was conducting a poll to find the best hot dog in Chicago. Those calls helped him to win first place.

Residents recalled that people would line up 10 and 12 deep to a buy a hot dog from him. The line moved slowly because he fixed two hot dogs at a time, taking buns and hot dogs out of the steam cabinet at the last minute.

Mr. Knabjian, an Armenian, was born in Constantinople, Turkey. He came to the United States in his teens and moved to Racine, Wis., where he lived with an uncle and worked for Ford Motor Co. He came to Chicago in 1920.

"He slept on park benches at first," said his daughter, Sylvia Knabjian. "A fellow Armenian told him about selling hot dogs. At first he had a box on his back with the hot dogs and walked around Bridgeport. He did it for 15 years. In 1935, he got a cart and established himself on the corner of Aberdeen and 32nd Place."

His daughter has taken over the stand, but it will be closed until next March. She does not share her father's practice of selling hot dogs from the pushcart year-round.

"There's tons of hot dog stands in Bridgeport," Stanislawski said. "He was there the longest and he was the best."

Survivors, besides his daughter, Sylvia, include two other daughters, Michelene Pognant and Diana Campbell; a son, Michael; and 15 grandchildren.

Date:

Office of Budget and Management
121 N. LaSalle, Room 604
Chicago, IL 60602

To Whom It May Concern:

I, Nicole T. Lee, Alderman of the 11th Ward, hereby authorize the Office of Budget Management to withdraw the funds associated with the cost of installation for this honorary street designation for Mike "The Hot Dog Man" Knabjian from my:

- Ward's annual menu program budget
- Ward's aldermanic expense allowance

upon passage of this designation ordinance, pursuant to Section 2-8-040 of the Chicago Municipal Code.

Sincerely,



Alderman

6/1/2017

