



## Mayor Nadine Woodward

June 22, 2023

Plan Commission Members,

I am pleased to express my support for the proposal by Spokane Public Schools in renaming a portion of Dean Avenue as "Joe Albi Way." This proposal offers an opportunity to highlight the rich history of Spokane and a community icon who tirelessly worked to improve the City through athletics and memorable events.

Joseph Aloysius Albi's roots as a civic leader extended to his work as an attorney, businessman, and diplomat. He had a passion for encouraging youth athletics and sports, founding the Athletic Round Table and advocating for sports facilities in the Spokane area. He played a key role in successfully funding the Memorial Stadium in 1950, which was later renamed Joe Albi Stadium in his honor shortly before his death in 1962. From that time, Joe Albi Stadium continued to be a vital community resource, providing the region with opportunities to participate and watch sports and musical performances

The City of Spokane historically owned and managed Joe Albi Stadium until 2013 when ownership was transferred to Spokane Public Schools. The aging Joe Albi Stadium was part of Spokane Public Schools 2018 Bond and Levy plan that included it be replaced with a more efficient and appropriately sized venue. The replacement stadium will be located downtown Spokane adjacent to the Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena and The Podium. While planning for the replacement stadium, Spokane Public Schools has made efforts to preserve recognition of Joe Albi's legacy through the design of "Joe Albi Plaza," which will be located near the front entrance of the stadium. This plaza will include a display plaque and also the statue of Joe Albi whose home has been within Joe Albi Stadium since 1997. This street name change is an appropriate action to continue the commemoration of Joe Albi's civic efforts in the Spokane community.

Consultation with the City's Historical Preservation Department indicates the historic significance of Dean Avenue will be preserved. Dean Avenue was originally named and platted further to the west between Elm Street and Cedar Street, named after Chester Dean Ide. Dean Avenue will continue to be preserved within the City of Spokane, located in the heart of the West Central Neighborhood.

Spokane Public Schools and Spokane Public Facilities District, an adjacent tenant, support the street name change. I invite you to support this request as an effort to continue a legacy while our community looks forward at the same time. The renaming of this section of Dean Avenue as "Joe Albi Way" will serve as a daily reminder of Joe's contributions and serve as an enduring testament to the impact that one individual can have when dedicating themselves to making positive changes in the lives of others.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Nadine Woodward".

Nadine Woodward  
Mayor

***The City of Choice***

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