

Proposed Street Naming Policy

(City Council on August 1, 2, 3 and 4, 2000, adopted this Clause, without amendment.)

The Works Committee recommends:

- (1) the adoption of the Street Naming Policy outlined in Attachment No. 1 to the report dated January 21, 2000, from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, subject to amending the section entitled “Criteria for Name Selection” to include recognition of communities which contribute to the ethnoracial diversity of Toronto; and**
- (2) that the City Solicitor be authorized to apply for special legislation to extend the provisions of the City of Toronto Act, 1991, which allows for the naming and numbering of private streets, to other areas of the new City of Toronto.**

The Works Committee submits the following communication (February 7, 2000) from the City Clerk:

The Works Committee, at its meeting on February 7, 2000, had before it a report (January 21, 2000) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services respecting the proposed Street Naming Policy; and recommending that:

- (1) the Street Naming Policy, outlined in Attachment No. 1, be circulated to the Community Councils for comment;
- (2) the Community Councils be requested to forward their comments to the Works Committee meeting of April 19, 2000, for processing through to City Council; and
- (3) if the Street Naming Policy contained in this report is adopted, the City Solicitor be authorized to apply for special legislation to extend the provisions of the City of Toronto Act, 1991, which allows for the naming and numbering of private streets, to other areas of the new City of Toronto.

The Works Committee concurred in the recommendations embodied in the aforementioned report.

(Report dated January 21, 2000, from the
Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services
addressed to the Works Committee)

Purpose:

This report recommends a policy for selecting and changing the names of streets and lanes.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement :

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

Recommendations :

It is recommended that:

- (1) the Street Naming Policy, outlined in Attachment No. 1, be circulated to the Community Councils for comment;
- (2) the Community Councils be requested to forward their comments to the Works Committee meeting of April 19, 2000, for processing through to City Council; and
- (3) if the Street Naming Policy contained in this report is adopted, the City Solicitor be authorized to apply for special legislation to extend the provisions of the City of Toronto Act, 1991, which allows for the naming and numbering of private streets, to other areas of the new City of Toronto.

Background :

There is currently no formal City-wide policy for the naming and renaming of streets in the City of Toronto. A new policy is required to consolidate the various naming policies, procedures and administrative processes.

Comments :

New street names are usually submitted by property owners, developers and/or their agents in connection with development proposals. Requests to rename a street or to name a lane typically originate from residents of the street or the local ratepayers' association. The proposed names are presently reviewed by staff to ensure there is no conflict with existing names, and that the names are not proposed for use in another development. The proposed names are circulated to affected Ward Councillors, Fire Services, Heritage Toronto, local heritage groups, ratepayers or residential associations for comments on the suitability of the proposed names.

The proposed policy (Attachment No. 1) consists of the former City of Toronto's policy and portions of the policies and procedures from the former municipalities.

We are proposing that the naming of streets should generally be used to honour and commemorate noteworthy places, events or persons who have made significant contributions to the City of Toronto; and to preserve the local heritage and identity of a neighbourhood. The criteria also includes the naming of streets after native wildlife, flora, fauna, natural features or things related to the City of Toronto.

Under Section 210, paragraph 111 of the Municipal Act, a municipality is empowered to pass by-laws to name and rename public streets. Prior to passing a name change by-law, the Municipal Act requires that four weeks' public notice be given and that affected parties be given an opportunity to be heard by Council. For the name change to become effective, the by-law must then be registered on title at the registry office. The City of Toronto Act for the former

City was amended in 1991, granting the City authority to name private streets. In order for the private naming and numbering legislation to be extended to other parts of the amalgamated City, it will be necessary to obtain special legislation to extend the City of Toronto Act, 1991 to the new City.

Conclusions:

The proposed policy outlines guidelines and criteria for street name selection in the City of Toronto. The policy should be forwarded to the Community Councils for review and comment.

The City Solicitor should also be requested to obtain the legal authority for the City to ensure the proposed street naming policy will apply to private streets and lanes as well.

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List of Attachments:

Attachment No. 1 – Proposed “City of Toronto Street Naming Policy”

Attachment No. 1

City of Toronto Street Naming Policy

Guidelines:

Application:

- (1) Applications for naming or renaming public highways and private streets shall be made in writing to the City Surveyor. The application should include the proposed name, the specific street location and brief but complete background information on the proposed name. Proposed names can also be selected from a list of names maintained by the City Surveyor.
- (2) In the case of a name change, the application should also include a petition with name, address and signatures of the persons who reside on or own property that fronts on or is adjacent to the subject street.
- (3) The City Surveyor shall circulate proposed names to the affected Councillors and appropriate agencies, heritage groups, local architectural conservation and advisory committee or local associations for comment. Once the comments have been obtained, the suitability of the proposed names will be reported on to the affected Community Council for approval.

- (4) Should proposed names of new streets be acceptable to all agencies, interested parties and Councillors in whose ward the street or lane is located, the City Surveyor may authorize incorporation of the names on the draft plan of subdivision.
- (5) The City Surveyor shall report to the Community Council if the proposed street names on a draft plan of subdivision application do not have approval from all parties concerned or if requested to do so by the Councillors in whose ward the street is located.

Naming and Renaming of Street and Lanes:

- (1) The general policy is that the names of streets and lanes should not be changed.
- (2) The renaming of a specific street or lane should only be considered when duplication of the name occurs within the City of Toronto or the surrounding municipalities and when renaming would generally improve the City's administration of essential services and would be in the public's best interest. Duplication of the name occurs when there are two or more unconnected portions of a street with the same name.
- (3) Municipal Act statutory compliance must be carried out, including advertising the proposed name change for four weeks and giving affected parties an opportunity to be heard by Council.
- (4) Applicants may be required to pay the costs incurred as a result of their request to name a street or lane, including notification in a newspaper of general circulation.

Criteria for Name Selection:

- (1) Streets should generally be named after people, places, events and things related to the City and citizens of Toronto. Proposed names should meet one of the following criteria:
 - (a) to honour and commemorate noteworthy persons associated with the City of Toronto;
 - (b) to commemorate local history, places, events or culture;
 - (c) to strengthen neighbourhood identity; or
 - (d) to recognize native wildlife, flora, fauna or natural features related to the community and the City of Toronto.
- (2) Consideration should be given to names of local area or historic significance.
- (3) Names of living persons should be used only in exceptional circumstances.
- (4) Only a person's last name should be used as a street name unless additional identification is necessary to prevent a duplication with an existing street name in Toronto and surrounding municipalities.

Names to be Avoided:

- (1) Street names being a duplicate of an existing street in the City of Toronto or in the municipalities surrounding Toronto shall be avoided.
- (2) Similar sounding names such as Beach Avenue and Peach Avenue, or Apple Hill Road and Apple Road should be avoided.
- (3) Cumbersome, corrupted or modified names, discriminatory or derogatory names, from the point of view of race, sex, colour, creed, political affiliation or other social factors, shall be avoided.
- (4) Names for public streets that could be construed as advertising a particular business shall be avoided.
- (5) The reuse of former street names should be discouraged because of the confusion this causes in property records management.

Street Type Designations:

- (1) Street type designations, depending on roadway function, length and configuration, exist to define the character of a street. The following designations should be consulted:
 - (a) Street, Avenue, Road, Boulevard – for major thoroughfares or streets of several blocks in length.
 - (b) Drive, Trail, Way – for streets which are winding or curved.
 - (c) Terrace, Gardens, Grove, Pathway, Heights – for minor or short streets.
 - (d) Lane, Mews, Close – for narrow streets generally used for service.
 - (e) Crescent – for streets which form a crescent.
 - (f) Court, Place – for cul-de-sacs.
 - (g) Circle – for streets that are circular.
 - (h) Gate – for a short street that provides an entrance to a subdivision.
 - (i) Square – for streets that form part of a square.
- (2) Qualifying words may be used when a newly created street is in actuality an extension of an existing street which cannot be renumbered or for which no municipal numbers are available. North, South, East, West and Upper or Lower are appropriate qualifying words.

Private Streets and Lanes:

The Guidelines and Criteria for Name Selection, as set out in this policy, shall apply to private streets and lanes in the geographic area of the former City of Toronto. Once the requisite legislation is obtained, this policy shall apply to the private streets and lanes in all areas of the City of Toronto.

The Works Committee also submits the following communication (March 27, 2000) from the City Clerk (East York Community Council):

Recommendation:

The East York Community Council, on March 23, 2000, recommended that the Criteria for Name Selection embodied in the proposed Street Naming Policy be amended by:

- (1) striking out No. (3) and inserting in lieu thereof: "Names of living persons may be used."; and
- (2) striking out No. (4) and inserting in lieu thereof: "A person's full name should be used as a street name to prevent duplication with an existing street name in Toronto and surrounding municipalities."

Background:

The East York Community Council had before it a communication (February 7, 2000) from the City Clerk, Works Committee, forwarding a report (January 21, 2000) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, regarding a policy for selecting and changing the names of streets and lanes, and requesting the Community Councils to forward such comments with respect thereto to the Works Committee for its meeting scheduled to be held on April 19, 2000.

The following persons appeared before the East York Community Council in connection with the foregoing matter:

- Mr. John Ridout, East York Historical Society; and
- Ms. Donna-Lynn McCallum, East York.

The Works Committee also submits the following communication (March 29, 2000) from the City Clerk (Scarborough Community Council):

Recommendation:

The Scarborough Community Council, at its meeting held on March 23, 2000, directed that the Works Committee be advised that Scarborough Community Council endorses the staff recommendations contained in the report (January 21, 2000) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and the Street Naming Policy embodied therein.

Background:

The Scarborough Community Council, at its meeting held on March 23, 2000, had before it a communication (February 7, 2000) from the City Clerk, forwarding the report (January 21, 2000) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, and the Street Naming Policy embodied therein, with the request that the Community Council submit its comments thereon to the Works Committee meeting scheduled to be held on April 19, 2000.

The Works Committee also submits the following communication (March 29, 2000) from the City Clerk (Toronto Community Council):

Recommendation:

The Toronto Community Council recommends that the Street Naming Policy outlined in Attachment No. (1) of the report (January 21, 2000) be adopted, subject to a statement being inserted to read: "That, as often as possible, names of streets shall not be changed, due to the profound effect on people's lives."

Background:

The Toronto Community Council, on March 23, 2000, had before it a report (February 7, 2000) from the City Clerk respecting the proposed Street Naming Policy.

The Toronto Community Council also had before the report (January 21, 2000) from the Commissioner, Works and Emergency Services.

The Toronto Community Council's recommendation is noted above.

The Works Committee also submits the following communication (March 30, 2000) from the City Clerk (North York Community Council):

Recommendation:

The North York Community Council on March 23, 2000, recommended to the Works Committee that:

- (1) the section titled, "Naming and Renaming of Street and Lanes" be the first section to appear in the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy, after the word "Guidelines";
- (2) that item (2) of the section titled "Application" be amended to read as follows:
 - “(2) In the case of a name change, the name change should also include a petition stating the reason for the change and include the names, addresses and signatures of the persons who reside on or own property that fronts on or is adjacent to the subject street.”

The North York Community Council reports for the information of the Works Committee and Council, having requested:

- (i) the Commissioner, Urban Development Services to bring forward a report, when the proposed Street Naming Policy is being considered by City Council, on the feasibility of securing the names of private roads on condominium properties through the condominium registration process; and
- (ii) the City Clerk to bring forward a report, when the proposed Street Naming Policy is being considered by City Council, regarding the effects of changing the names of streets with regard to the voters list; and to set forth recommendations as to when street name changes should be implemented.

Background:

The North York Community Council had before it a communication (February 7, 2000) from the City Clerk advising that the Works Committee concurred with the recommendations embodied in the report (January 21, 2000) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services; and in so doing:

- (1) forwards the Street Naming Policy, outlined in Attachment No. 1 to the report (January 21, 2000 from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, to the Community Councils for comments; and
- (2) requests the Community Councils to forward their comments to the Works Committee meeting of April 19, 2000, for processing through to City Council.

The Works Committee also submits the following communication (April 1, 2000) from the Clerk Clerk (Etobicoke Community Council):

The Etobicoke Community Council at its meeting held on March 23, 2000, received the communication dated February 7, 2000, from the City Clerk, respecting the Street Naming Policy.

Background:

The Etobicoke Community Council had before it a communication (February 7, 2000) from the City Clerk, advising that the Works Committee on February 7, 2000, concurred in the recommendations embodied in the report (January 21, 2000) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, and in so doing:

- (1) forwards the Street Naming Policy, outlined in Attachment No. 1 to the aforementioned report, to the Community Councils for comment; and
- (2) requests the Community Councils to forward their comments to the Works Committee meeting of April 19, 2000, for processing through to City Council.

Councillor Dick O'Brien declared his interest in the foregoing matter in that he resides on Laurel Avenue, which may be affected by the Street Naming Policy.

The Works Committee also submits the following communication (April 13, 2000) from the City Clerk (York Community Council):

The York Community Council on March 23, 2000 had before it a communication (February 7, 2000) from the City Clerk, advising that the Works Committee concurred with the recommendations embodied in the report (January 21, 2000) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, and in so doing:

- (1) forwarded the Street Naming Policy, outlined in Attachment 1 to the aforementioned report, to the Community Councils for comment; and
- (2) requested the Community Councils to forward their comments to the Works Committee meeting of April 19, 2000, for processing through to City Council.

The York Community Council advises the Works Committee that it endorses the proposed Street Naming Policy contained in Attachment No. 1 to the report (January 21, 2000) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services.

The Works Committee reports, for the information of Council, having also had before it during consideration of the foregoing matter the following communications:

- (i) (April 18, 2000) from Mr. Srdjan Besir, Toronto, Ontario, suggesting that the proposed City of Toronto Street Naming Policy be amended by adding the criterion that in recognition of the increasing multicultural composition of the City and the contributions of its many ethnocultural groups, consideration should be given to names which recognize the heritage of the respective ethnocultural groups which comprise the City;
- (ii) (May 16, 2000) from Mr. Srdjan Besir, Toronto, Ontario, suggesting that ethnic content be officially considered as criteria of the Street Naming Policy, and that more opportunity be given to all individual ethnic groups to name streets; and
- (iii) (July 12, 2000) from Ms. Mary Alberti, Family Service Association of Metropolitan Toronto, and on behalf of the FSA Community Action, proposing additional criteria under the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy, as follows:

“To recognize communities who contribute to the ethnoracial diversity of Toronto.”; and
- (vi) (July 12, 2000) from Mr. Srdjan Besir, Toronto, Ontario, requesting that ethnic content be officially considered as criteria for the City's new Street Naming Policy.

The following persons appeared before the Works Committee in connection with the foregoing matter:

- Mr. Srdjan Besir, Toronto, Ontario; and
- Mr. Rajko Seat, Family Services Association.

(City Council on August 1, 2, 3 and 4, 2000, had before it, during consideration of the foregoing Clause, a communication (July 14, 2000) from Ms. Jessica Spremo proposing that a street be named in honour of her grandfather, Boris Spremo.)