



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Naming of Public Lane – Ben Kerr Lane

<b>Date:</b>	August 22, 2007
<b>To:</b>	Toronto and East York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Wally Kowalenko, City Surveyor
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 30
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2007\Cluster B\TEC\TE07031

### SUMMARY

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This staff report is about a matter for which the community council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

This report recommends that the name “Ben Kerr Lane” be approved to identify the public lane located between Danforth Avenue and Chatham Avenue, extending easterly from Jones Avenue to the easterly limit of the lane, located east of Euston Avenue.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

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The City Surveyor recommends that:

- (1) the public lane located between Danforth Avenue and Chatham Avenue, extending easterly from Jones Avenue, to the easterly limit of the lane located east of Euston Avenue, be named “Ben Kerr Lane”; and
- (2) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto, including the introduction of a naming by-law.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

### ISSUE BACKGROUND

We have a request from the Chatham West Residents’ Association (22 Chatham Avenue, Toronto, ON M4J 1K6) to name the public lane located between Danforth Avenue and Chatham Avenue, extending easterly from Jones Avenue, to the easterly limit of the lane located east of Euston Avenue, shown on Attachment No. 1. In an effort to improve neighbourhood safety, the Chatham West Residents’ Association have submitted a letter

and petition with thirty signatures of residents who have properties abutting the lane, requesting that the lane be named “Ben Kerr Lane”.

The Association has written that "Ben Kerr was a resident of this neighbourhood (at 390 Jones Avenue) for 25 years until his death in 2005. "As much an icon of Toronto as the CN Tower" Ben was known to all Torontonians in his regular busking spot at Yonge and Bloor. As well, he ran in every Toronto Mayoral election since 1985, placing fourth in 1997 behind Mel Lastman, Barbara Hall and Don Andrews. He served as an executive at the Toronto Harbour Commission for a time and was also a tireless anti-smoking crusader long before this view was fashionable. Many people on Chatham Avenue not only knew Ben by sight but often stopped to talk to him as he pushed his busking equipment up Jones Avenue - passing the opening of the very laneway we would like to name. This well-loved local character represents for us civic service, independence, humour, and integrity. We would love to see him remembered in this modest way."

## **COMMENTS**

The proposed name has been circulated for comment and is acceptable to Councillor Paula Fletcher, the Toronto and East York Preservation Panel, Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Police Services do not support the name as there are existing streets that begin with “Ben”.

The name “Ben Kerr Lane” is not duplicated in Toronto or in the municipalities surrounding Toronto. The use of the street type “Lane” should help to distinguish the name from existing names that begin with “Ben”.

The name conforms with item 1 (a), Criteria For Name Selection, as set out in City Council’s street naming policy – “to honour and commemorate noteworthy persons associated with the City of Toronto”.

Notices to name the lane, under the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, will be given in accordance with the notice requirement set out in Chapter 162-3A of the City of Toronto Municipal Code.

The proposed name “Ben Kerr Lane” is consistent with the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy approved by City Council at its meeting held on August 1, 2, 3 and 4, 2000 (Clause 9, Report 15 of the Works Committee) and should therefore be approved for identifying the public lane.

## **CONTACT**

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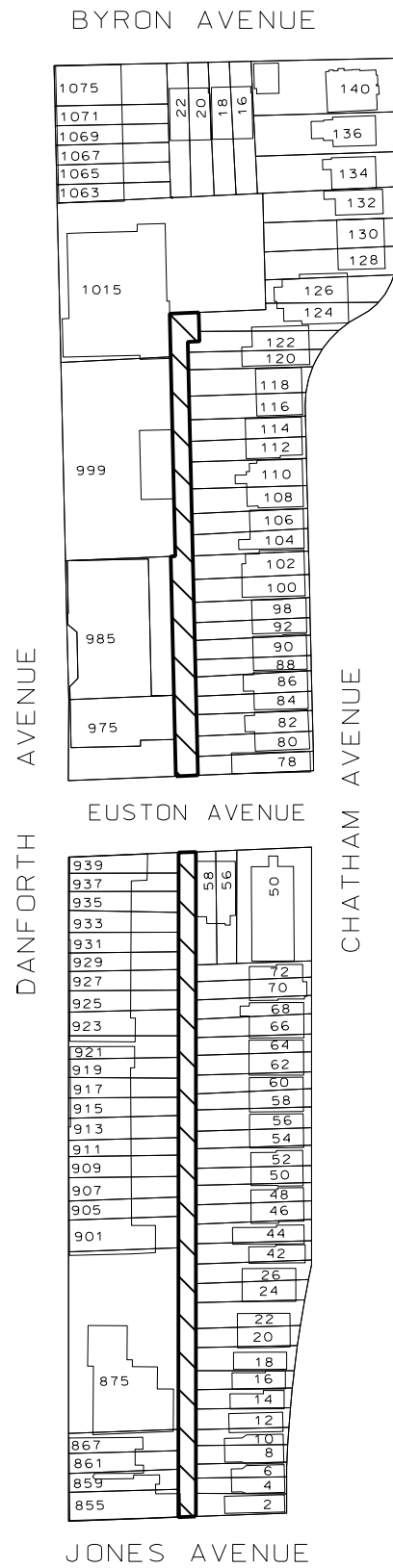
## **SIGNATURE**

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W. (Wally) Kowalenko  
City Surveyor

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment No. 1 – Map



PUBLIC LANES TO BE NAMED "BEN KERR LANE"

CITY OF TORONTO  
 SURVEY AND MAPPING SERVICES  
 WARD 30 AUGUST 20, 2007  
 BENKERRLANE.DGN MAP: 53H21  
 FILE: 1902.22.30 DRAWN: B. HALL

