



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Proposed renaming of Newport Beach Park to "Jean Augustine Park"

Date:	June 3, 2010
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Brenda Patterson, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 6- Etobicoke-Lakeshore
Reference Number:	P:\2010\Cluster A\PFR\EY38-062210-AFS#12336

SUMMARY

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

This report responds to the request made at Etobicoke York Community Council (EY37.38) at its May 25th, 2010 meeting, regarding the renaming of Newport Beach Park located at 2115 Lake Shore Boulevard West in tribute to the Honourable Jean Augustine.

Parks, Forestry, and Recreation staff is recommending that Newport Beach Park, part of the Humber Bay Shores Park system, be officially renamed "Jean Augustine Park" in honour of her significant contributions to the City of Toronto.

Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff have exercised due diligence in ensuring that all criteria in the Naming and Renaming of Parks and Recreation Facilities Policy have been met.

RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division recommends that Etobicoke York Community Council:

1. Rename Newport Beach Park located at 2115 Lakeshore Boulevard West to "Jean Augustine Park" in honour of her significant contributions to the City of Toronto.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

DECISION HISTORY

Etobicoke York Community Council, at its meeting of May 25, 2010, considered a petition from a group of Toronto residents, referred to as “Friends of Jean Augustine”. The petition requested the Newport Beach Park, located at 2115 Lakeshore Boulevard West, be renamed to “Jean Augustine Park” and referred the matter to the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation for a report to Etobicoke York Community Council. (Item EY37.38)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/ey/decisions/2010-05-25-ey37-dd.htm>

COMMENTS

Jean Augustine was born in Grenada in 1937. Before entering politics, she was an elementary school principal with the Metropolitan Separate School Board in Toronto. From 1993 to 2005, she was a member of the Canadian House of Commons, representing the riding of Etobicoke-Lakeshore. During her tenure, she was instrumental in acquiring funding from the Federal government to make both the Toronto and Mimico Linear Parks a reality.

In the 1993 federal election, Jean Augustine became the first African Canadian woman elected to the Parliament of Canada and subsequently the first African Canadian woman in a federal Cabinet. She also served three terms as Chair of the National Liberal Women's Caucus. In February 2002, she was elected Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade. In 2004, she was appointed to the position of Assistant Deputy Chair of Committees of the Whole, making her the first African Canadian to occupy the Speaker's Chair in the Canadian House of Commons.

The Honourable Jean Augustine served on numerous Boards in Toronto, including the Board of Governors of York University, the Board of Trustees for The Hospital for Sick Children, the Board of Directors of the Donwood Institute, the Board of Harbourfront Corporation and Chair of the Metro Toronto Housing Authority. She was also National President of the Congress of Black Women of Canada. Ms. Augustine has worked on many initiatives related to youth and feels that “racism is the most significant barrier to the successful integration of newcomer black youths to Canada.”

In 2007, the Honourable Jean Augustine was nominated by the Government of Ontario to become the first Fairness Commissioner, a position created to advocate for Canadians with foreign professional credentials. In 2009, she was made a Member of the Order of Canada "for her distinguished career as an educator, politician, and advocate for social justice in Canada".

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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