

Maria Augimeri

City of Toronto Councillor York Centre, Ward 9 Toronto City Hall

100 Queen Street West, Suite C53 Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2 Telephone: 416-392-4021 Facsimile: 416-392-7109

Email: councillor_augimeri@toronto.ca **Website:** www.mariaaugimeri.com



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To North York Community Council,

RE: Naming of Public Lane in Ward 9 as "Najib Abboud Lane"

Mr. Najib Abboud, a resident of ward 9, recently celebrated his 105th birthday. His family has lived for the past 50 years in a house located on Dufferin Street, between Wilson Avenue and Hwy 401. There is a public laneway behind their house, stretching from Winston Park Boulevard to Whitely Avenue, that the family has suggested be named "Najib Abboud Lane". I support this suggestion due to the deeply rooted history and involvement this family has in the Downsview community, specifically the Wilson and Dufferin neighbourhood. The first resident of Mr. Abboud's family (his daughter) moved to Dufferin Street in 1958 and throughout the years many of his 7 children, 21 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren and other relatives have bought houses in and around this neighbourhood. In fact, 8 of the 10 houses on this stretch of Dufferin Street are owned by the Abboud family.

Shortly after immigrating into the neighbourhood, Mr. Abboud assisted his family and others with the cultural transition of moving into a versatile and diverse City such as Toronto. He became part of the neighbourhood watch program and walked his grandchildren as well as the neighbouring children to and from St. Norbert Elementary School. Mr. Najib Abboud is a big advocate of education and installed this in his family. All of his grandchildren attended St. Norbert Elementary School with honours, received their high school diplomas and attended universities in Toronto -- many have become doctors, nurses, pharmacists and lawyers.

When asked the secret of living a 105 years, Mr Abboud replied "If you love your family and you make your community your family, your community will in turn love you back and you will always have a home and never feel alone!"

This exemplary resident is the heart of the Wilson and Dufferin community and as a token of appreciation for his selfless lifelong contribution to this community, I ask that the City Surveyor submit a report to the next North York Community Council, on the naming of this public lane, located west of Dufferin St between Winston Park Boulevard and Whitley Avenue, "Najib Abboud Lane"

Sincerely,

Councillor Maria Augimeri

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Ward 9 – York Centre