



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Renaming of a portion of the south branch of Gerrard Street East extending easterly from Carlaw Avenue to Boston Avenue

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| Date: | March 4, 2013 |
| To: | Toronto and East York Community Council |
| From: | Manager, Land and Property Surveys |
| Wards: | Ward 30 |
| Reference Number: | P:\2013\Cluster B\TEC\TE13020 |

SUMMARY

This report provides information requested by the Toronto and East York Community Council on the feasibility of changing the name of a portion of Gerrard Street East between Carlaw Avenue and Boston Avenue to alleviate traffic concerns.

Changing the name would constitute a renaming under the City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy. This renaming is feasible, but should be considered only after weighing the expected operational, community and safety improvements against the impact on the affected residents caused by the necessary address changes.

This report discusses the relevant provisions of the City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy and provides the Toronto and East York Community Council with information that will assist with a decision.

Financial Impact

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

Engineering and Construction Services recommends that:

1. Toronto and East York Community Council receive this report for information.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

On March 20, 2012, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted Item 14.57 which requested the Acting Director, Transportation Services to undertake a review of the portion of Gerrard Street East between Carlaw Avenue and Boston Avenue and to make a recommendation regarding a solution to a traffic infiltration issue raised by Councillor Fletcher.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.TE14.57>

A report from the Acting Director, Toronto and East District, Transportation Services was then adopted by Toronto and East York Community Council at its meeting of June 13, 2012, as Item TE17.86. That report contained the following recommendation:

1. *Requested the City Surveyor review the feasibility of changing the street name of the south branch of Gerrard Street East, between Carlaw Avenue and Boston Avenue."*

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.TE17.86>

COMMENTS

The following sections of the City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy relate to the renaming of streets:

"5.1.2 The names of properties and streets honouring individuals or organizations cannot be altered without the express authorization of the relevant Community Council. The renaming of properties and streets will only be pursued in exceptional circumstances and be considered within the context of the historical and/or community significance of the existing name."

Street naming is delegated to Community Councils however, renamings are only pursued in "exceptional circumstances". Legal Services has advised, on a separate matter, that Community Councils are not able to exercise such delegation due to the lack of guidelines for the interpretation and application of the term "exceptional circumstances". Only Council has the discretion to interpret this term in any manner it sees fit. Therefore, approval of any renaming would be the decision of City Council.

"5.1.3 The cost and impact of changing existing signage, rebuilding community recognition and updating records must be considered before a property or street is renamed."

Transportation Services would be responsible for signage costs. There would be an undetermined cost to update division records.

"6.3.2 All applications for naming or renaming 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. The City Surveyor shall determine the appropriate street type designation (eg. avenue, boulevard, trail, terrace, crescent, etc.) and/or qualifier (eg. East,est, etc.) for a proposed name.

"6.3.3 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."

There are 12 addresses fronting on this section of Gerrard Street East and 1 address adjacent on Carlaw Avenue. If it is determined by Toronto and East York Community Council that a renaming is in order, an application should be made in accordance with these sections of the Policy and a petition should accompany the application.

Any renaming would require address changes for the 12 properties which front on this section of Gerrard Street East. If the renaming was City-initiated, the cost for address changes would be waived. With any address change, residents would be responsible for updating any address-related personal documentation (eg. drivers licenses, subscriptions, school and medical records) and any attendant costs.

The City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy can be found at:
http://www.toronto.ca/mapping/street_naming/index.htm

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 – DWG No. 421G-0692

Attachment No. 1

