TORONTO

STAFF REPORT
INFORMATION ONLY

Naming of Proposed Public Street West of Warden Avenue, Between Eglinton Avenue East and Ashtonbee Road

Date:	July 14, 2008
To:	City Council
From:	W. (Wally) Kowalenko, City Surveyor
Wards:	Ward 37
Reference Number:	P:\2008\Cluster B\TEC\CC08038

SUMMARY

This report provides the letters of support and references philanthropic activities of Mr. Karim Hakim with respect to the proposed street name “Hakim Avenue”.

Financial Impact

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

DECISION HISTORY

The Scarborough Community Council at it’s meeting on July 7, 2008 considered Item SC17.2 headed – Naming of Proposed Public Street West of Warden Avenue, Between Eglinton Avenue East and Ashtonbee Road. The Scarborough Community Council adopted the report from the City Surveyor and amended recommendation 1 by changing the proposed name from “Karim Hakim Avenue” to “Hakim Avenue”.

The Scarborough Community Council on a motion by Councillor Michael Thompson requested the City Surveyor to report directly to City Council providing letters of support and philanthropic information pertaining to Item SC17.2.

The previous staff report is available at the following location:
http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/sc/bgrd/backgroundfile-14064.pdf

COMMENTS

Mr. Karim Hakim's philanthropic activities include donating hundreds of thousands of eye glasses to people in need around the world in cooperation with other sponsors; leading the Ride for Sight motorcycle charity parade across the GTA; and other charitable activities.

The requested supporting information is attached to this report as set out below.

(1) Letter from Councillor Michael Thompson, dated April 28, 2008
(2) Letter from Harold G. Shipp, Shipp Corporation, dated April 3, 2008
(3) Letter from Reza Moridi, M.P.P., Richmond Hill, dated April 4, 2008
(4) Letter from Mayor Hazel McCallion, City of Missisauga, dated April 10, 2008
(5) Letter from 11 persons: David Mario Farmani, Mina Asadi, Kay Asadi, Dori Birgani, Mehrab Birgani, Sam Moosavi, Rudi Moosavi, Sara Moosavi, Sahar Moosavi, Guy Boushard, Mariam Asaadi, dated April 1, 2008
(6) Letter from Martin Teplitsky, Teplitsky Colson, dated April 7, 2008
(7) Kiumars Rezvanifar, Media House, dated March 26, 2008
(8) Letter from Paul H. Starkman, Starkman Barristers, dated April 7, 2008
(9) Letter from Paul Didur, Paul Didur Architect Inc., dated April 4, 2008
(10) Information on Mr. Hakim obtained from the Hakim Optical website.

CONTACT

Desmond Christopher, Supervisor, Street and Parcel Mapping
Phone: 416-392-1831, Fax: 416-392-0081, E-mail: dchristo@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

_____
W. (Wally) Kowalenko
City Surveyor

ATTACHMENTS

Letters of Support and Information from Hakim Optical Website

MICHAEL THOMPSON
Councillor,
Scarborough Centre, Ward 37

SURVEYS
DATE MAY - 5 2008
W0033- NAMING proposals
By WARD 28-40 (37)
KEYWORDS RESPONSE
COMMENTS

April 28, 2008

Mr. Wally Kowalenko
City Surveyor,
Survey Mapping Services Section
18 Dyas Road,
Toronto, ON
M3B 1V5

Dear Mr. Kowalenko,

Re: Renaming Lebovic Avenue (between Eglinton Ave. E. and Ashtonbee Road)

Further to your conversation with my Executive Assistant, Ihor Wons regarding the above matter, I am forwarding for your consideration letters of support to rename the above noted street to **Karim Hakim Avenue**. The request comes from representatives of the Persian community, elected officials and prominent business people who believe this gesture is fitting to celebrate Mr. Hakim's achievements and contributions as an entrepreneur, businessman and philanthropist. This location was chosen because Mr. Hakim's factory outlet, which was established at this location in 1988, was removed for the extension of Lebovic Avenue to Ashtonbee Road.

When I first learned about this matter, I spoke with Mr. Peter Noehammer, Director, District Transportation Services. Mr. Noehammer advised me that he had no concerns with regards to this request since there are no street addresses on this portion of Lebovic Avenue.

My support for this request is well expressed in the enclosed letters of support from Mayor Hazel McCallion and Harold G. Shipp. Mayor McCallion said: "His personal involvement in many charitable projects is reflective of his genuine concern for others and his many contributions have helped to improve the quality of life for many in need."
Mr. Shipp said: "I believe that it is fitting that the City of Toronto should name a street after a man who so ably represents the strong values and spirit of hard work that are cherished by our City and our Country. Karim Hakim's a shining example of the opportunity for success that awaits new Canadians, and a role model for people of all cultural backgrounds."

If you require any additional information regarding this request please give me a call.

Yours truly,

Michael Thompson
Councillor, Scarborough Centre, Ward 37

100 QUEEN STREET WEST, 2ND FLOOR, SUITE B24
TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA M5H 2N2
TEL: 416•397-9274 FAX: 416•397-9280

RECEIVED APR 2 3 2008

SHIPP CORPORATION LIMITED

Office of the
Chairman
and Chief
Executive Officer

April 3, 2008

Councillor Michael Thompson
Ward 37, City of Toronto
100 Queen St. West
2nd Floor, Suite B24
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

Dear Mr. Thompson:

I am writing in support of an application to name the new northern extension of **Lebovic Avenue** after Mr. Karim Hakim.

Mr. Hakim is an extraordinary entrepreneur, businessman and philanthropist of Persian heritage whose factory, established in September 1988 was removed to make way for the recent Lebovic Road extension. A self made man and generous supporter of the local community, he is a worthy example and role model in Scarborough's increasingly multi-ethnic social environment.

Mr. Hakim was born in Tehran, Iran. When he was eight years old, his father passed away, forcing him to leave school and take a job operating the bellows in a blacksmith shop to help feed his impoverished family.

Soon he found a job as an apprentice lens-maker, where he began learning the essential optical skills that have served him so well in his business life. At night, he returned to school to finish his education, and at age 19, he enlisted in the Iranian Navy. When his enlistment was complete, he moved to Europe to perfect his lens-making skills, later emigrating to Canada to continue his career.

By carefully saving his money, Mr. Hakim was able to open his first optical lab in 1967 on Elm Street. Working first with old equipment that he refurbished himself, he began supplying opticians and optometrists with lenses on a wholesale basis. Gradually, he began to expand into the retail business, ultimately building a strong chain of over 140 showrooms and over 100 one-hour factory outlet stores across southern Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and most recently Manitoba. Mr. Hakim is focused on growth, recently opening 12 stores in Winnipeg and with expansion plans for Western Canada including Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Red Deer and Saskatoon.

While he was building a strong and prosperous business that now employs hundreds of people, Mr. Hakim also recognized the importance of charity. Over the years, he has donated hundreds of thousands of pairs of eyeglasses to people in need around the world in co-operation with the Rotary

SHIPP CORPORATION

Club and Lions International. He also has led the Ride for Sight motorcycle charity parade of more than 1,000 motorcyclists across the GTA to raise money for vision research. Ride for Sight has raised more money than any other motorcycle charity ride in Canada, contributing significantly to the more than $12 million in donations received by the Foundation Fighting Blindness.

Always willing to help others, especially when asked, Mr. Hakim is also a willing supporter of countless other charitable activities. In recognition of his generosity and humanitarian efforts, Mr. Hakim was inducted as a Knight of the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights of Malta, ~the Hereditary Order~, in June 2005 by myself as the Grand Prior of Canada.

I believe that it is fitting that the City of Toronto should name a street after a man who so ably represents the strong values and spirit of hard work that are cherished by our City and our Country. Karim Hakim is a shining example of the opportunity for success that awaits new Canadians, and a role model for people of all cultural backgrounds. What better name could there be to put on a Toronto Street sign?

Sincerely,

Harold G. Shipp

Reza Moridi, M.P.P.
Richmond Hill
Ontario

April 4, 2008

Mr. Karim Hakim

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing in support of an application to name the new northern extension of Lebovic Avenue after Mr. Karim Hakim.

Mr. Hakim is an extraordinary entrepreneur, businessman and philanthropist of Persian heritage whose factory that was established in September of 1988 was removed to make way for the recent Lebovic road extension.

A self made man and generous supporter of the local community, Mr. Hakim is a worthy example and role model in Scarborough's increasingly multi-ethnic social environment.

Mr. Hakim was born in Tehran, Iran. When he was eight years old, his father died, forcing him to leave school and take a job operating the bellows in a blacksmith shop to help feed his impoverished family.

Soon he found a job as an apprentice lens-maker, where he began learning the essential optical skills that have served him so well in his business life. At night, he turned to school to finish his education, and at age 19, he enlisted in the Iranian navy. When his enlistment was complete, he moved to Europe to perfect his lens-making skills, later immigrating to Canada to continue his career.

By carefully saving his money, Mr. Hakim was able to open his first optical lab in 1967 on Elm Street. Working first with old equipment that he refurbished himself, he began supplying opticians and optometrists with lenses on a wholesale basis.

Gradually, he began to expand into the retail business, ultimately building a strong chain of over 140 showrooms and over 100 one-hour factory outlet stores across southern Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and most recently Manitoba.

Mr. Hakim is focused on growth, recently opening 12 stores in Winnipeg and with expansion plans for western Canada including Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Red Deer and Saskatoon.

While he was building a strong and prosperous business that now employs hundreds of people, Mr. Hakim also recognized the importance of charity.

900 Bay Street, 3rd Floor, Mowat Block, Toronto, ON M7A 1L2 • T - (416) 314-7824 F - (416) 326-2807 E - rmoridi.mpp@liberal.ola.org

Over the years, he has donated hundreds of thousands of pairs of eyeglasses to people in need around the world in co-operation with the Rotary Club and Lions International.

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I believe that it is fitting that the City of Toronto should name a street after a man who so ably represents the strong values and spirit of hard work that are cherished by our city and our country.

Mr. Karim Hakim is a shining example of the opportunity for success that awaits new Canadians, and a role model for people of all cultural backgrounds.

What better name could there be to put on a Toronto Street sign?

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Reza Moridi, MPP
Richmond Hill

RECEIVED APR 18 2008

CITY OF MISSISSAUGA
INCORPORATED 1874

RECEIVED APR 18 2008

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

April 10, 2008
Our File: H.02

To Whom It May Concern:

I understand that a proposal has been put forward to have a street in the City of Toronto named after Sir Karim Hakim and I wholeheartedly provide my support as he is most deserving of such an honour.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Sir Karim Hakim for many years and consider him a good friend and a man of great integrity and character.

In his approach to business, he has not sacrificed important qualities such as honesty and credibility and has served as a positive role model for others in the community. He is known for his exceptional business acumen and represents the ideal citizen; one who not only succeeds in personal pursuits but who is also involved in the success of the community and who motivates others to do the same. Karim Hakim has a longstanding history with the City of Toronto, opening his first optical lab in 1967, and has gone on to expand his business throughout Canada, employing hundreds of people and contributing greatly to the economy.

His personal involvement in many charitable projects is reflective of his genuine concern for others and his many contributions have helped to improve the quality of life for many in need. In 2005, he was inducted as a Knight of the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Knights of Malta in recognition of his humanitarian work and over the years, he has donated hundreds of thousands of pairs of eyeglasses to those in need around the world and is a supporter of numerous charities.

As Mayor of the City of Mississauga, I have no hesitation in providing my support for this proposal as naming a street after Sir Karim Hakim in the City of Toronto is a wonderful way to recognize all that he has done for the city.

Sincerely,

HAZEL McCALLION, C.M.
MAYOR

MISSISSAUGA
Leading today for tomorrow

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA
300 CITY CENTRE DRIVE, MISSISSAUGA, ON L5B 3C1
TEL: 905-896-5555 FAX: 905-896-5879
mayor@mississauga.ca

April 1, 2008

Executive Assistant
Ihor D. Wons
Office of Councillor Michael Thomson

City Hall
100 Queen Street West, Suite B24
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Sir:

Re: Street Renaming

We are writing in support of an application to name the northern extension of Lebovic Avenue after Mr. Karim Hakim.

Mr. Karim Hakim is an extraordinary entrepreneur, businessman and philanthropic of Persian heritage whose factory that was established in September 1988 was removed to make way for the recent Lebovic road. A self made man and generous supporter of local community, he is a worthy example and role model in Scarborough's increasingly multi-ethnic social example.

Mr. Karim was born in Tehran, Iran. When he was eight years old, his father died, forcing him to leave school and take a job operating the bellow in blacksmith shop to help and feed his impoverished family.

Soon he found a job as an apprentice lense-maker, where he began learning the essential optical skill that have served him so well in his business life. At right, he returned to school to finished his education, and at age of 19, he enlisted in Iranian navy. When his enlistment was completed, he moved to Europe to perfect his lens-making skill, later he emigrated to Canada to continue his career.

By carefully saving his money, Mr. Hakim was able to open his first optical lab in 1967 on Elm street and ultimately grew to over 140 showroom and over 100 one hour factory outlet store across souther Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and most recently Manitoba.

Always willing to others when asked, Mr. Hakim is also a willing supporter of countless other charitable activities. In recognition of his generosity and humanitarian efforts, Mr. Hakim, was inducted as Knight of Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knight of Malta, in June 2005.

We believe that fitting that the City of Toronto should name a street after a man who ably

represent the strong values and spirit of hard working that are cherished by our city and our country. Karim Hakim is a shining example of the opportunity for success that waits new Canadians, and a role model for people of all culture backgrounds. What a better name could there be to put on a Toronto Street sign.

Sincerely,

David Mario Farmani

Mina Asadi

Kay Asadi

Dori Birgani

Mehrab Birgani

Sam Moosavi

Rudi Moosavi

Sara Moosavi

Sahar Moosavi

Guy Boushard

Mariam Asaadi

TEPLITSKY, COLSON LLP
BARRISTERS

Suite 200, 70 Bond Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5B 1X3
Telephone: (416) 365-9320
Facsimile: (416) 365-7702

MARTIN TEPLITSKY, Q.C., LSM, LL.D.

Direct line: (416) 865-5300
E-Mail: mteplitsy@teplitskycolson.com

April 7, 2008

SENT BY FAX - 416-397-9280

Michael Thompson
Toronto City Councillor
Scarborough Centre Ward 37
City Hall
100 Queen Street West
2nd Floor, Ste B24
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mr. Thompson:

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TEPLITSKY, COLSON LLP
BARRISTERS

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Yours very truly,

MT/ef

MARTIN TEPLITSKY, Q.C.



25 Valleywood Drive, Suite 12, Markham, ON, L3R 5L9 T: 416.548.8601
F: 905.763.8972

Mr. Michael Thompson
Toronto City Councillor
Scarborough Centre, Ward 37

March 26, 2008

Dear Mr. Thompson,

I am writing in support of an application to name the new northern extension of Lebovic Avenue after Mr. Karim Hakim.

Mr. Hakim is an extraordinary entrepreneur, businessman, and philanthropist of Persian heritage whose factory that was established in September of 1988 was removed to make way for the recent Lebovic road extension. A self made man and generous supporter of the local community, he is a worthy example and role model in Scarborough's increasingly multi-ethnic social environment.

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Regards,

Kiumars Rezvanifar
Executive Producer
Pasargad TV& Iran Zameen TV

STARKMAN BARRISTERS

creative litigation solutions

April 7, 2008

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Street Renaming and Mr. Karim Hakim

I am writing in support of an application to name the new northern extension of Lebovic Avenue after Mr. Karim Hakim.

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Please reply to: **205-100 Mural Street, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1J3 (T) 905.889.3330 (F) 905.889.9544**
3310-20 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON M5H 3R3 (T) 416.599.3331 (F) 416.599.3319

Starkman Professional Corporation

www.starkmanbarristers.com
paul@starkmanbarristers.com

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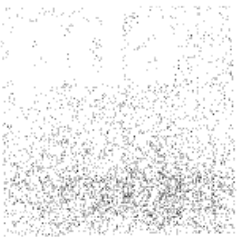
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Yours very truly,
STARKMAN BARRISTERS
"Paul H. Starkman"
(electronically signed)
Paul H. Starkman
PHS/tlp

[redacted] • 4191 Dundas Street West • Suite 202 • Toronto • Ontario M8X 1X6

T 416 [redacted] • F 416 [redacted] • E [redacted] • W [redacted]



April 4, 2008

Michael Thompson
Toronto City Councillor
Scarborough Centre, Ward 37

Re: Street Naming

I am writing in support of an application to name the new northern extension of Lebovic Avenue after Mr. Karim Hakim.

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Yours truly,
Paul Didur Architect Inc.

Paul Didur, M.R.A.I.C
PD:lt

HAKIM OPTICAL

1-800-387-0791

ABOUT SIR HAKIMI: MR. HAKIM'S KNIGHTHOOD CEREMONY



It is with great pride and pleasure that we announce the induction of Mr. K. Hakim to knight of The Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Knights of Malta. Thereafter having the title Sir Karim Hakimi.

The celebration of Sir Karim Hakimi's knighthood took place in the evening of June 24th, 2005 at Queen's Park Toronto, Ontario's Parliament Hall. This great honour has been bestowed upon Sir Karim Hakimi for his many generous contributions such as donating hundreds of thousands of pairs of eyeglasses to people in less fortunate countries. And most recently, participating in "Ride for Sight" in support of The Foundation Fighting Blindness.

When a man as busy as Sir Hakimi makes time to help in humanitarian efforts, it is worthy of our admiration and congratulations to Sir Hakimi for doing a wonderful job.

The Management
HAKIM OPTICAL



Sir Hakimi Rides for Sight
Click Here for details.



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HAKIM OPTICAL

1-800-387-0791

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SIR HAKIMI RIDES FOR SIGHT

When Sir Hakimi found out that he could help fight blindness by riding his motorcycle -he couldn't wait to put on his helmet and leathers to participate in the 2005 Ride for Sight.

Sir Hakimi led Canada's largest motorcycle charity parade in which more than 1,000 motorcyclists travelled from the AMC Theatre in Whitby, Ont. to Centennial Park in Trenton, Quinte West to raise money for vision research.

The motorcycle parade is one aspect of Ride of Sight which has collected more than $12 million in donations for The Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB), the only private organization dedicated to finding causes, treatments and cures for blindness.

Hakim Optical has been staunch supporter of The Foundation Fighting Blindness, by helping raise profile of its plight for vision research funding. Clients and staff will notice the Foundation's logo and phone number on the Hakim Optical website and its 15 million flyers annually. The company has also donated prizing for its comedy fundraiser, Comic Vision.

As Sir Hakimi rode through local towns en route from Whitby to Trenton, he waved at residents gathered on the roadside, filling them hope that blindness can be beat! Sir Hakimi took in the scenic ride along country landscapes for just over 2hours and led the parade into Centennial Park in Trenton where 3,000 plus motorcyclists, fundraisers and volunteers welcomed riders for a weekend long celebration to honour their fundraising efforts.

Centennial Park featured many attractions such as motorcycle competitions, manufacturer demo rides, an Indoor and Outdoor Marketplace with great food, refreshing drinks, clothing, souvenirs and more. Eight live bands also rocked the park, including Canadian talent, Trooper, Juno award winner Paul James, Jack de Keyzer and Mason Dixon. Camping, boating, and an awesome fireworks display over the Trent Severn Waterway also provided non-stop entertainment.



Mr. Hakim's
Knighthood Ceremony
Click Here for details.