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April 10, 2012

Submitted Via Email: etcc@toronto.ca

Etobicoke York Community Council
Etobicoke Civic Centre
Main Floor, 399 The West Mall
Toronto, ON M9C 2Y2

Dear Councillors:

Re. Peter the Barber Boulevard

I am writing to express my support for the renaming of John Street, between Weston Road and the CN/CP rail tracks in the Village of Weston, to "Peter the Barber Boulevard".

Pantelis Kalamaris was "Peter the Barber". Mr. Kalamaris left Greece as a young man and made his way to Canada. His new life was not an easy one. With just a basic education, he worked doing anything from picking tomatoes to washing dishes. Through plenty of hard work, Mr. Kalamaris soon saved enough money to support his family in Greece, get married, buy a house, earn his Canadian citizenship and bring his siblings to Canada.

In 1961, Mr. Kalamaris – or Peter as he was now known – opened Peter's Barber Shop in the Village of Weston. Over half a century, thousands of people – from hockey players to actors to politicians to everyday people – made their way to his barber's chair. They listened to his stories of Greece and his Canadian love, hockey. His small barber shop, adorned with all kinds of hockey paraphernalia, became legendary and was featured in national and local media.

Some even referred to the shop as hockey's other Hall of Fame. Just last year, it hosted the Stanley Cup to mark the shop's 50th anniversary. Sadly, Peter Kalamaris wasn't there to touch hockey's Holy Grail. Back on October 3, he passed away; but he left behind a rich legacy that will forever be remembered in his adopted hometown of Weston.

Recognizing Peter's immense contribution to the community, more than 1,300 individuals have signed a petition to change the portion of John Street on which Peter's Barber Shop – now operated by his son – so prominently sits to "Peter the Barber Boulevard". As Peter's Member of Parliament, I fully support this initiative.

It would be a fitting tribute to a man who became not just a Weston legend, but a remarkable Canadian success story – the kind we should all celebrate and point to as an example to others.

Sincerely,

Mike Sullivan
MP, York South—Weston

cc. Weston BIA
Councillor Frances Nunziata