TORONTO

STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED

Naming the Playground in Arlington Parkette as the Sousa Mendes Playground

Date:	January 25, 2013
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Jim Hart, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 21 - St. Paul's West
Reference Number:	P:\2013\Cluster A\PFR\TE22-022613-AFS#17083

SUMMARY

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

Parks, Forestry, and Recreation is recommending that the playground located in Arlington Parkette at 460 Arlington Avenue be named in honour of Sousa Mendes who, through his courage and dedication, was able to save the lives of thousands of people during World War II.

Parks, Forestry, and Recreation has reviewed the proposal and determined that this naming proposal met all the criteria of the Council-approved *Honourific and Street Naming Policy*.

RECOMMENDATION

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

1. Officially name the playground located in Arlington Parkette, at 460 Arlington Avenue, “Sousa Mendes Playground” in honour of Mr. Mendes' heroic actions which saved thousands of lives during World War II.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

COMMENTS

Aristides de Sousa Mendes was born in Portugal in 1885. He obtained a law degree in 1908 and shortly after began his diplomatic career which took him around the world. He served in Zanzibar, Kenya, Brazil, United States, Belgium and finally France. At the outbreak of World War II and the invasion of France, by the Nazi army, Sousa Mendes was Consul-General in Bordeaux. He took heroic actions during these dark days and issued visas which permitted an estimated 30,000 French Jews and other minorities to escape Nazi persecution.

The office of the Ward Councillor consulted the public regarding this naming proposal and received wide and broad support. Many letters supporting this naming proposal were received and are available on file.

CONTACT

Richard Ubbens, Director, Parks, Tel: 416-392-7911, Fax: 416-397-4899,
Email: rubbens@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

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Jim Hart
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation