Renaming of a portion of Elizabeth Street extending northerly from College St to Grenville Street

Date: March 1, 2013
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Manager, Land and Property Surveys
Wards: Ward 27
Reference Number: P:\2013\Cluster B\TEC\TE13023

SUMMARY

On January 22, 2013, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted Item TE21.102 requesting the City Surveyor to investigate and report on the renaming of a portion of Elizabeth Street extending northerly from College Street to Grenville Street as "Dr. Emily Stowe Way".

This report recommends that the name not be approved because it does not comply with the City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy.

Community Councils have delegated authority to decide street naming matters which comply with the City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Engineering and Construction Services recommends that:

(1) Toronto and East York Community Council not approve the name, "Dr. Emily Stowe Way" to rename that portion of Elizabeth Street extending northerly from College Street to Grenville Street.

Financial Impact

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

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In a letter dated January 9, 2013, Women's College Hospital approached Councillor Wong-Tam with its proposal to rename that portion of Elizabeth Street extending northerly from College Street as "Dr. Emily Stowe Way".
Councillor Wong-Tam then brought the proposal to the attention of the Toronto and East York Community Council in a letter dated January 15, 2013. In that letter Councillor Wong-Tam provided the following summary of the proposal and recommended that a staff report be prepared:

"Dr. Emily Howard Jennings Stowe was the first Canadian woman to practice medicine in Canada, and a life-long champion of women’s rights. In 1883, Dr. Stowe spearheaded the creation of the Ontario Medical College for Women, the precursor to Women’s College Hospital which celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 2011. Women’s College Hospital is undergoing an extensive renovation to build two new hospital buildings and when completed will be Canada's only hospital with a mandate to provide exemplary research, teaching and clinical treatment in women's health. Renaming the portion of Elizabeth Street running north from College Street to Grenville Street to honour Dr. Emily Stowe will create a ceremonial entrance to the new Women's College Hospital."

At its meeting on January 22, 2013, Toronto and East York Community Council considered the matter, and adopted Item TE21.102 which contained the following recommendation:

" 1. Requested the Acting City Surveyor to investigate and report to Toronto and East York Community Council on the suitability of renaming that portion of Elizabeth Street extending northerly from College Street as "Dr. Emily Stowe Way."

The portion of Elizabeth Street being considered for this renaming is shown on Attachment No. 1 - Sketch No. PS-2013-008 to this report.

COMMENTS

The proposed name "Dr. Emily Stowe Way" does not comply with Section 6.1.5 of the City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy which states:

6.1.5 Only a person's last name should be used as a street name unless additional identification is necessary to prevent duplication with an existing street name in Toronto and surrounding municipalities.

The proposed name "Dr. Emily Stowe Way" does not comply with Section 6.3.1.2 of the City of Toronto Honourific and Street Naming Policy which states:

6.3.1.2 "Similar sounding names such as Beach Avenue and Peach Avenue, or Apple Hill Road and Apple Road should be avoided."
There already exists an "Emily Street" in the City.

The Toronto and East York Preservation Panel supports the proposed name "Dr. Emily Stowe Way".

Police Services, Fire Services and Emergency Medical Services all object to the name as it is similar sounding to an existing street "Emily Street". They further object to the use of the title "Dr." in any street name. All of the first responders are in agreement that the use of the surname only, "Stowe" would be acceptable. This would also be in compliance with the Policy.

Due to non-compliance with the Policy it is recommended that the name "Dr. Emily Stowe Way" not be approved.

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

CONTACT
Kerry Ferguson, OLS, Supervisor, Land and Property Surveys
Phone: 416-392-7757, Fax: 416-392-0081, E-mail: kferguso@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

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Bruce McPherson
Manager, Land and Property Surveys
Engineering Services
Engineering and Construction Services

ATTACHMENT

Attachment No. 1 – Sketch No. PS-2013-008