August 12, 2014

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF ETOBICOKE YORK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

RE: RENAMING OF UNION STREET, BETWEEN TURNBERRY AVENUE AND THE END OF THE STREET TO "BENNY STARK STREET"

Benny Stark was born in Czechoslovakia in 1921 and grew up on the family farm. He went through WW2 in forced labour and then a concentration camp. After the war, Mr. Stark got married and emigrated to Canada in 1953 and worked many jobs to survive. One of those jobs was a labourer in a scrap yard and eventually, Mr. Stark worked his way up and ran the entire operation.

In 1959, Mr. Stark opened his own scrap yard on Maria Street in the Dundas/Runnymede area. The business ultimately became a substantial operation and subsequently relocated the establishment to Union Street. After many years, and together with his son, Stephen, joining the business, they acquired some neighbouring properties and ended up owning both sides of Union Street, between Turnberry Avenue and the end of the street.

Mr. Stark made a tremendous contribution to the local community, in terms of employment. He, together with his son, was a good corporate neighbour in the community overall, fighting for the retention of employments lands within the local neighbourhood.

With his new vision, they changed from a scrap metal yard to something very innovative within the car industry. The industrial community within the neighbourhood is in support of the recommendation to rename Union Street, between Turnberry Avenue and the end of the street to "Benny Stark Street".

Mr. Benny Stark passed away on October 4, 2013, at the age of 93.

RECOMMENDATION:

Etobicoke York Community Council ask City staff to review the request to rename Union Street, between Turnberry Avenue and the end of the Street to "Benny Stark Street" and report back to the next Etobicoke York Community Council.

Cesar Palacio
Toronto City Council
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