



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Naming of Public Lane located south of Grange Avenue, extending westerly from Augusta Avenue

<b>Date:</b>	March 15, 2016
<b>To:</b>	Toronto and East York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Director, Engineering Support Services
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 20
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2016\Cluster B\TEC\ TE16007

#### **SUMMARY**

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This report recommends that the name "Arthur King Lane" be approved to identify the public lane located south of Grange Avenue, extending westerly from Augusta Avenue.

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

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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Engineering and Construction Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Approve the name "Arthur King Lane" for the public lane located south of Grange Avenue, extending westerly from Augusta Avenue.

#### **Financial Impact**

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

#### **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

An application was received from Kim Kenny, daughter of Arthur King, to name the public lane located south of Grange Avenue, extending westerly from Augusta Avenue as "Arthur King Lane". The following background information has been provided:

## **"Arthur Augustus King"**

February 23, 1927— December 14, 2011

*Few fighters have captured the imagination of Toronto's boxing fans like Arthur King did during the Forties and Fifties. In an amateur and professional career that spanned almost fifteen years, King headlined more local shows than any fighter, before, or since, drawing plaudits for his skills and courage between the ropes. The son of Immigrant parents from Barbados and Panama, he was born in Toronto on February 23, 1927. As a child, he lived on Augusta Avenue and Brunt Street and also at the Children's Aide Orphanage downtown after the untimely death of both his father and mother. After being adopted by the Carnegie family, he moved to Boswell Avenue, taking his first job at a toy factory as a 16 year old.*

*A penchant for settling arguments with his fists, lead King to the Afro Community Church gymnasium, where trainer Jimmy Jones began polishing the youngsters athletic gifts. It was also there that King met the great heavyweight champion Jack Johnson, and adopted the ring name "LiI Arthur", a sobriquet that Johnson had used during his ring career. As a 16-year-old in the fall of 1943, King burst on the Toronto boxing scene, regularly selling out weekly amateur shows at Massey Hall. Fighting against nearby rivals, as well as boxers brought in from as far away as Detroit and Montreal, King established himself as the finest amateur boxer in Canada — though with the Olympics on hold due to the War, he was unable to show his talents on the world stage until turning pro in January of 1946. King's abilities were enough for promoter Frank Tunney to take the unusual step of having the 18-year- old headline his debut at Maple Leaf Gardens. It would be the first, of over thirty professional main-event appearances at the famous downtown building for King, a record for the venue to date.*

*By 1946, King was the Canadian and British Empire Lightweight Champion, having beaten Danny Webb In February for domestic honors, before flying to Manchester, England where he gained the Empire Crown with a win over Billy Thompson. The British press raved about King, calling the Canadian a "cool and calculating boxer", and a "fast and vicious hitter." King was not only the first; but still the only Canadian boxer to bring the British Empire Champion title back to Canada. A move to the United States soon followed, and by the end of the year, King was ranked among the world's top ten lightweights by Ring Magazine.*

*Fighting out of Philadelphia between 1946 and 1953, King headlined shows in many of the major American cities, and at one time was ranked as the #1 contender for the World Title held by Ike Williams. During that time, he returned to Toronto frequently, and beat many of the best lightweight fighters on both sides of the border, though boxing politics stood in his way of a world title shot. King's trainer, Jimmy Wilson, who trained several world champions, told the Toronto press that he believed King would have been a world champion if the opportunity had been presented. It was a view that King's peers also held, with fellow lightweight contender Henry Davis telling the Toronto Star that in the opinion of the fighters, King was considered 'the best of all the lightweights.'*

*The title chase ended in November of 1953, when King broke his left hand against Eddie Chavez in San Francisco. It was a bad fracture requiring surgery, and King found himself on the sidelines for the next two years. He moved back to Toronto In 1956 for a*

*comeback, ending his career on a high note the following year with a victory over middleweight contender Yama Bahama.*

*After leaving the ring, King settled down to raise a family of three children with his wife Marie. He worked for many years at the Dominion warehouse. In his spare time; he set up boxing lessons at a local community centre and trained young boys how to box. He felt that this not only kept them off the streets, it also taught them discipline, gave them self-confidence and self-worth, It worked like a champ. The boys loved their coach, and won some of the Ontario competitions.*

*King was elected to the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame In 1987.*

The lane is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2016-014.

## **COMMENTS**

The proposed name has been circulated for comment and is acceptable to Toronto Police Service, Toronto Fire Services, and Toronto Paramedic Services.

Councillor Cressy supports this naming proposal.

Familial consent was provided by Kim Kenny, daughter of the named party.

Community support in the form of a petition from residents, whose properties abut the lane, was provided by the applicant.

This naming proposal complies with the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy.  
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.EX7.8>

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

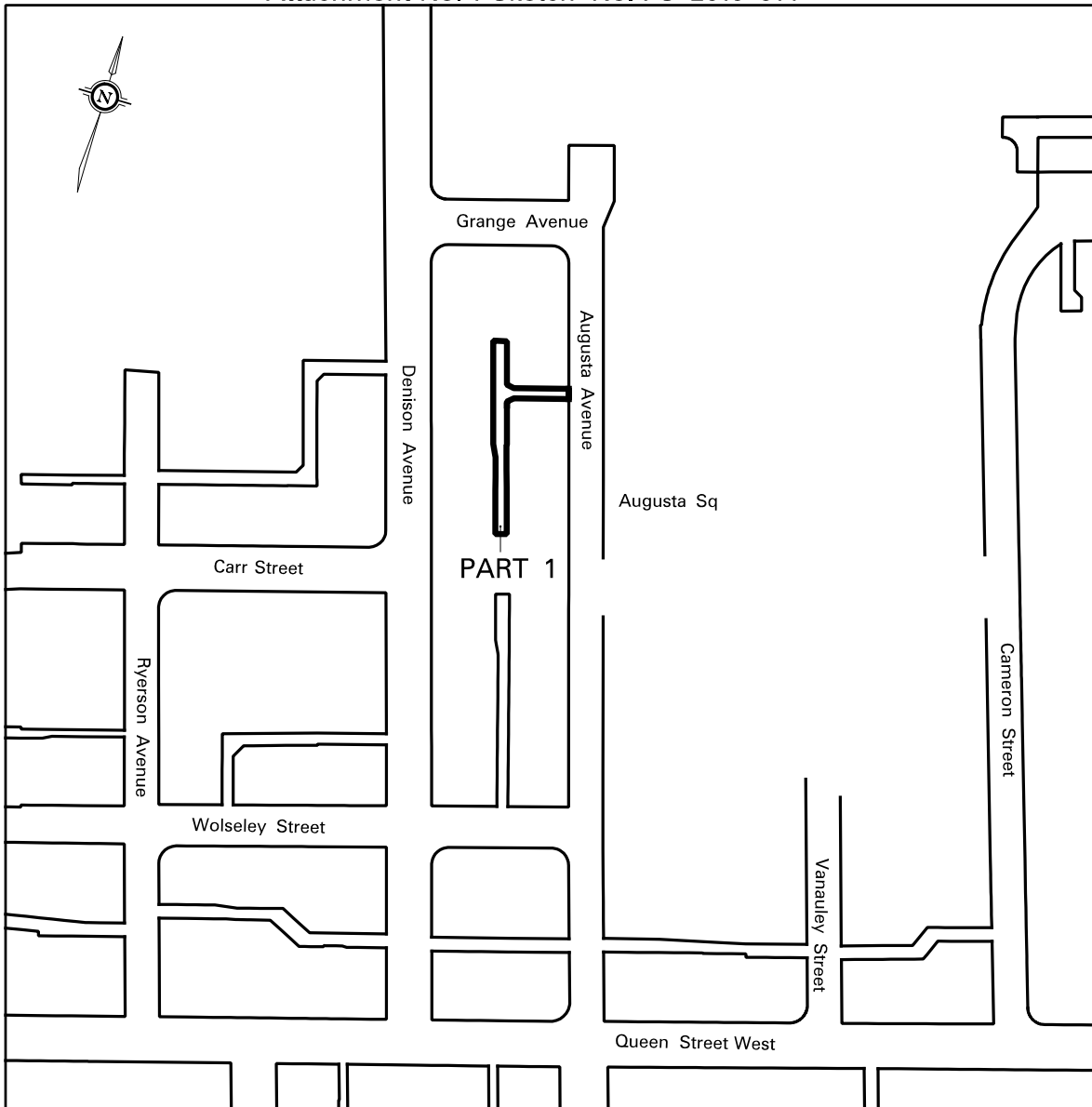
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Mika Raisanen, Director  
Engineering Support Services

## **ATTACHMENT**

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2016-014

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NOTE:  
THIS SKETCH HAS BEEN  
COMPILED FROM OFFICE  
RECORDS. MEASUREMENTS  
ARE APPROXIMATE

CHECK BY JOHN HOUSE  
PREPARED BY: DWAYNE PITT

PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET  
NAMING OF A PUBLIC LANE LOCATED SOUTH OF  
GRANGE AVENUE, WEST OF AUGUSTA AVENUE  
WARD 20 - TRINITY-SPADINA  
DATE: FEBRUARY 01, 2016  
SKETCH No. PS-2016-014