Naming of a Public Lane north of Swanwick Avenue, extending easterly from Norwood Road to Enderby Road

Date: October 26, 2017
To: Toronto and East York Community Council
From: Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services
Wards: 32 Beaches-East York

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the name "Gene Domagala Lane" be approved to identify a public lane north of Swanwick Avenue, extending easterly from Norwood Road to Enderby Road.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Approve the name "Gene Domagala Lane" for a public lane north of Swanwick Avenue, extending easterly from Norwood Road to Enderby Road.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost to install two street name signs is approximately $500 and is included within the Transportation Services Division Operating Budget.

DECISION HISTORY

This is the first time that this issue is before Community Council.
On August 2, 2017 an application was received from Debbie Visconti, to name the lane north of Swanwick Avenue, extending easterly from Norwood Road to Enderby Road as "Gene Domagala Lane". The applicant provided the following information.

"Gene Domagala is a long time beach resident, and has been a staple in Ward 32 for decades. Gene is a local historian and retiree whose volunteering efforts in the Beach community are legendary. His selfless volunteer work comes from his love of the community and the people in it. He helps as much as one person can possible do. Gene traces his commitment to charity back to his mother who used to cook for poor people in their at the time west-end Toronto neighborhood. Gene’s parents were Polish immigrants who settled in the Bathurst and Queen Area, and even as a child Gene got exposed to children of all different backgrounds and nationalities. All the children played together in this poor neighborhood. Gene continues this spirit of inclusion today with his anti-racism work. Some of his many volunteer roles and contributions include, picking up food for the out of the cold lunches daily. This is something that he is passionate about and not a day goes by that he doesn’t fulfill his voluntary obligations. He is also very active with the Toronto Star Santa Claus Fund, a Christmas initiative that involves volunteers delivering boxes full of Christmas gifts to needy families. He has been delivering Star Boxes for about 47 years now in the Parkdale area. His holiday efforts don’t stop there as he has been a key volunteer with the Christmas drive at Community Centre 55 for over 25 years.

Gene also sits on or has sat on basically every board in the community. Some of these include, the Beach’s Recreation Centre, The Police Board, the TDSB, and Community Centre 55 amongst many others. Gene is highly involved in the Canadian Cancer Society, the Interfaith Program, the Food Bank and that’s just mentioning a few! He has also been awarded the Beach Citizen of the Year, as well as other awards to recognize his dedication to making our community and city better.

Gene is not a wealthy man, which makes his commitment to others even more admirable. On top of his daily volunteer efforts, he is a member of the Toronto Historical Board and volunteers his time giving regular historical walking tours in the community, educating locals and people from other areas of the city and abroad on the rich history of Toronto’s east end and the beach area. These walking tours have become so popular that they are often attended by dozens of people.

Gene undoubtedly is an omni-present and well-treasured pillar of this community. His volunteer work is selfless and he truly makes our community a better one. By having a lane named after him in our community, we feel that it would help to recognize his life work and commitment to our community."

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

Consent was provided by Gene Domagala.
Community support in the form of a petition from owners whose properties abut the lane was provided by the applicant.

The lane is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2017-075.

This naming proposal complies with the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy. [Street Naming Policy](#)

**CONTACT**

Kerry Ferguson, OLS, Manager, Land and Property Surveys, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services, Telephone: 416 392-7757, Email: Kerry.Ferguson@toronto.ca

**SIGNATURE**

Mika Raisanen, P. Eng., Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services

**ATTACHMENT**

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2017-075
Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2017-075, showing the location of the lane north of Swanwick Avenue, extending easterly from Norwood Road to Enderby Road.