

Naming of a Public Lane south of Queen Street East, extending between Booth Avenue and Logan Avenue

Date: December 15, 2017

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services

Wards: 30 Toronto-Danforth

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the name "Louis Kesten Lane" be approved to identify a public lane south of Queen Street East, extending between Booth Avenue and Logan Avenue.

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 "Louis Kesten Lane" for a public lane south of Queen Street East, extending between Booth Avenue and Logan Avenue.

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.

COMMENTS

On April 7, 2017 an application was received from Myles Kesten, son of the named party, to name the lane south of Queen Street East, extending between Booth Avenue and Logan Avenue "Louis Kesten Lane". The applicant provided the following rationale:

"Louis Kesten was born in 1919, in Toronto. He was the oldest of 3 brothers, born to Polish Immigrants. His father and mother were in the "needle trade" on Spadina Avenue and they grew up poor in the Kensington Market section of Toronto.

Louis chose a profession in Pharmacy because you got paid to apprentice before earning your degree. He graduated from U of T in 1945. He then married his sweetheart, Esther Segal and they had 3 children.

Shortly after graduating as a Pharmacist and getting married, Lou leased a small space at 887 Queen Street East and set up Woodgreen Discount Drugs. In 1949 he purchased the space and thereafter purchased adjoining property to add space to his growing business. He also hired his brother to run the Pharmacy.

Lou was ahead of his time. He introduced free car delivery from his drugstore, introduced 'discount' pricing, and brought in the original 'Metropolitan Prescription Welfare Plan'. This latter plan was to allow customers to get their prescriptions filled at a Drug store of their choice, as opposed to being dictated by the City; being forced to travel to one location and waiting forever, with constant confusion. This was the fore runner of the Drug Benefit Plan, initiated by the City of Toronto and then adopted by the Ontario Government.

In 1963, Lou was a successful Pharmacist and had actually expanded his franchise with some partners to 10 locations. But his children were growing up and he wasn't doing the day-to-day management. He craved to do more, so he went back to school. Law school this time. In 1968, Lou Kesten was called to the Bar after graduating from Osgoode Hall law school in Toronto. Soon after, he opened his Law Practice in offices above his Drugstore at 887 Queen to serve locals; especially those in real need. He folded his other Drugstore locations to focus on his Leslieville location and his Law practice.

In 1975, Lou was the first to install a computer in his pharmacy. This helped him get information about patient allergies, drug interactions and abuse. Another bold move and one which enabled Woodgreen Drugs to serve their customers in Leslieville with the very best of service and care.

In the 1970's Lou purchased the block of buildings at 889+ Queen Street East. Woodgreen Discount Drugs and Lou Kesten's Law Office served the community of Leslieville for almost 70 years.

The businesses run by his brother at 889 Queen St East and his son in law ran for many years, happily serving Leslieville residents. Lou Kesten enabled them to set up business and supported them.

Lou ran for Toronto City Councillor in 1976 in Ward 8 (Riverdale), unsuccessfully. His love for the community and his city was very evident in all that he did. He was a champion for causes relevant to improving the lifestyle of the citizens of Leslieville and beyond.

He was a maverick. Never one to rest on his laurels. He always fought for the common man. This was evident in his actions and his community spirit".

Louis Kesten passed away in 1998.

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

Consent was provided by Myles Kesten, son of the named party.

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-2017-097.

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

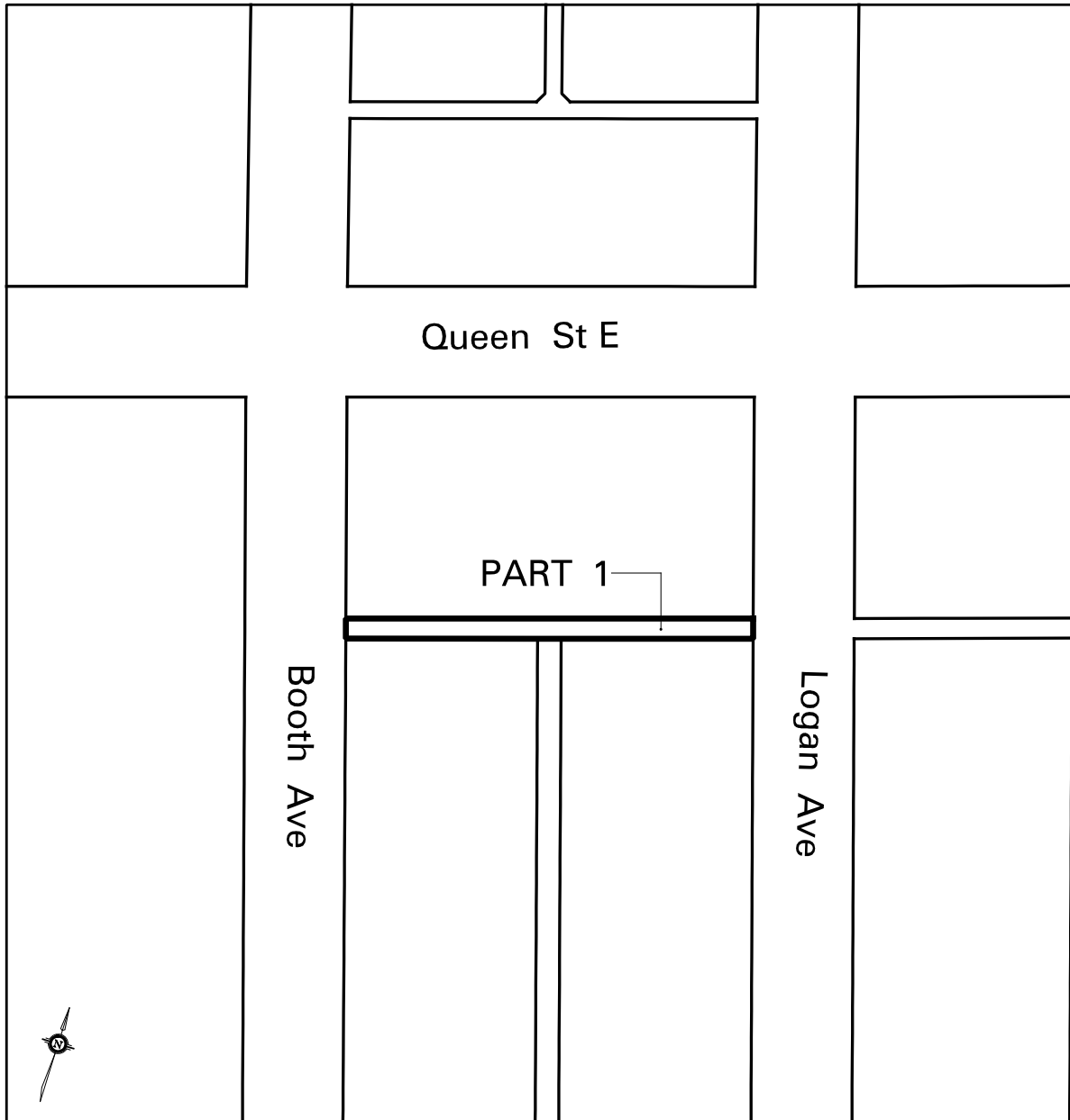
SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENT

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2017-097

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2017-097, showing the location of the lane south of Queen Street East, extending between Booth Avenue and Logan Avenue



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

CHECK BY JOHN HOUSE
PREPARED BY: DWAYNE PITT

WARD 30 - TORONTO-DANFORTH
DATE: OCTOBER 23, 2017

PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET

NAMING OF A PUBLIC LANE SOUTH OF
QUEEN STREET EAST, EXTENDING BETWEEN BOOTH
AVENUE AND LOGAN AVENUE

SKETCH No. PS-2017-097