

## **Naming of 3 Lanes in Ward 21**

**Date:** March 14, 2018

**To:** Toronto and East York Community Council

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

**Wards:** Ward 21 St. Paul's

### **SUMMARY**

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This report recommends names for 3 public lanes located in Ward 21 St. Paul's.

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 "Charley Roach Lane" for the public lane north of St. Clair Avenue West, extending between Arlington Avenue and Rushton Road.
2. Approve the name "Don Francks Lane" for the public lane east of Bathurst Street, extending northerly from Tichester Road then easterly to Lonsmount Drive.
3. Approve the name "Nick Vitantonio Lane" for the public lane west of Spadina Road, extending between Lonsdale Road and Montclair Avenue.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The cost to install 6 lane name signs is approximately \$1500 and is included within the Transportation Services Division Operating Budget.

### **DECISION HISTORY**

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This is the first time that this issue is before Community Council.

## COMMENTS

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In October 4, 2017, Councillor Mihevc's office forwarded 3 lane naming applications from the community for consideration under the Street Naming Policy. The proposed lane names are shown on Attachments 1, 2, and 3 according to the following schedule:

Attachment 1 – Sketch No. PS-2018-025:

Part #	Proposed Name
1	Charley Roach Lane

Attachment 2 – Sketch No. PS-2018-026:

Part #	Proposed Name
1	Don Francks Lane

Attachment 3 – Sketch No. PS-2018-027:

Part #	Proposed Name
1	Nick Vitantonio Lane

The following summaries were provided by the applicants:

### **"Charley Roach Lane"**

Honoring the Canadian Civil Rights Lawyer and activist in the Black community in Toronto.

*Charles Roach was born in Trinidad in 1933. He immigrated to Canada in 1955 to pursue his dream of attending university to study theology. During his years at the University of Saskatchewan, Rosa Parks' name became famous when she refused to give up her "whites only" seat on a bus. This event, and, more generally, the civil rights movement in the United States, profoundly influenced him. Instead of continuing the path to the priesthood he had planned, he moved to Toronto to attend law school with a vision of fighting for civil rights and social justice. This was a vision that deeply motivated him throughout his life.*

*In 1968, Charley opened his own law practice, focusing on civil rights and social justice but also becoming a full-service law firm comprised of up to ten lawyers at a time. He often represented clients for little or no fee.*

*Charley generally pursued human rights on two fronts simultaneously: in the courts and through political organizing. Over the years, a large number of community activists met in Charlie's office to plan campaigns for equality and social justice.*

*One of his spectacular victories was the case of the seven Jamaican mothers who won permanent residency because of his activist-legal campaign. This eased the situation of domestic workers who had been in Canada for many years without hope of permanent status.*

*Along with Dudley Laws and others, Charlie founded the Black Action Defence Committee (BADC). For decades, BADC was the most prominent organization exposing and protesting racism in policing. In particular, BADC argued that we need an agency independent of the police that investigates when an officer kills or seriously injures someone. One of BADC's main achievements was the creation, in 1990, of the Special Investigations Unit, the civilian agency that now investigates killings and serious injuries caused by police officers.*

*In addition to being an exceptional lawyer and activist, Charlie gave much to the community in other ways. He was the key founding member of Caribana back in 1967. He sat on the Board of Directors of Caribana for many years, helping Caribana to survive various difficulties. Charlie held the position of Chairperson on and off a number of times between 1967 and 2007.*

*Although he never became a citizen of Canada, Charlie Roach dedicated much of his life to making Canada a better place. His work has left a lasting impact in Toronto, and, more broadly, in Canada. The fact that his law office stood within our Ward boundaries is something we can all be proud of since it was the base of operations for many progressive steps forward in Toronto history. The laneway under proposal is right around the corner from where Charlie's office stood. It is so close that he might have walked it on a lunch break or while discussing some idea to help move our City forward.*

Charley Roach passed away on October 2, 2012.

Sunset Roach, Kikelola Roach and Dawn Roach, children of Charley Roach have provided consent.

### **Don Francks Lane**

Honoring the Canadian actor, vocalist and jazz musician. Don was highly regarded for his gentle humanity and consistent kindness to all he met.

*Donald Harvey Francks (February 28, 1932 - April 3, 2016), also known as Iron Buffalo, was a Canadian actor, vocalist, and jazz musician. Don Francks was born and raised in Burnaby, British Columbia, a suburb of Vancouver.*

*He once attributed his vocal talent and career to free elocution lessons with Muriel Davis from the age of eight. He performed in Vaudeville, worked as a foundryman, and was involved in summer stock before moving to Toronto. As a spokesman for the Canadian television series, "Other Voices" in the mid-1960s, he investigated a boy's murder at Saskatchewan Red Pheasant First Nation. He married and moved there with*

*his second wife, dancer and actor Lili Francks, who was named Red Eagle there. He was adopted as a Cree and named Iron Buffalo - "strong like iron; like the buffalo who knows where to go, is a good provider and good for his family." From 1979, he lived in Toronto with his wife, Lili, and their son, Rainbow Sun. His daughter, actress Cree Summer, lives and works in Hollywood. He also had two children by his first marriage.*

*He was a poet, First Nations champion, author, and peace activist. He supported Greenpeace and Tibet. Francks composed songs and played the trombone, drums, and flute. He performed in many jazz clubs, including George's Spaghetti House in Toronto and the Village Vanguard in New York City.*

Don Francks passed away on April 3, 2016. Lili Francks, wife of the named party has provided consent.

### **Nick Vitantonio Lane**

Honoring the owner of the Forest Hill Barber Shop, the oldest business in the Village, operating continuously in the same location since 1931.

*In every vibrant community, there are individuals and institutions that provide the 'glue' that creates community and holds it together. In Forest Hill Village, the Forest Hill Barber Shop is such an 'institution' and Nick Vitantonio is such an individual.*

*The Forest Hill Barber Shop is the oldest business in the Village and Nick Vitantonio is its longest-serving owner and operator, providing service to succeeding generations of residents. Furthermore, Nick has contributed actively to the well-being of the City of Toronto. In 1995, under his leadership, the staff of the Forest Hill Barber Shop created a golf tournament to raise funds for charity. The Forest Hill Barber Shop Charity Golf Tournament ran for 13 years. (It was organized each year entirely by Nick and his staff without the assistance of professional event planners). Thanks to the continuing support of the barbershop's loyal customers, as sponsors, participants, and supporters, the tournament sold out every year and raised, in total, over \$600,000, the bulk of which was donated to the Hospital for Sick Children, among other charities.*

Consent was provided by Nick Vitantonio.

The proposed names for all 3 lanes have been circulated for comment and are acceptable to Toronto Police Service, Toronto Fire Services, Toronto Paramedic Services and Councillor Mihevc.

Community support for all 3 lanes was demonstrated in the form of petitions from some of the owners/residents whose properties abut the lanes, as well as letters of support from community groups.

These naming proposals comply with the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy.

[Street Naming Policy](#)

## **CONTACT**

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

## **SIGNATURE**

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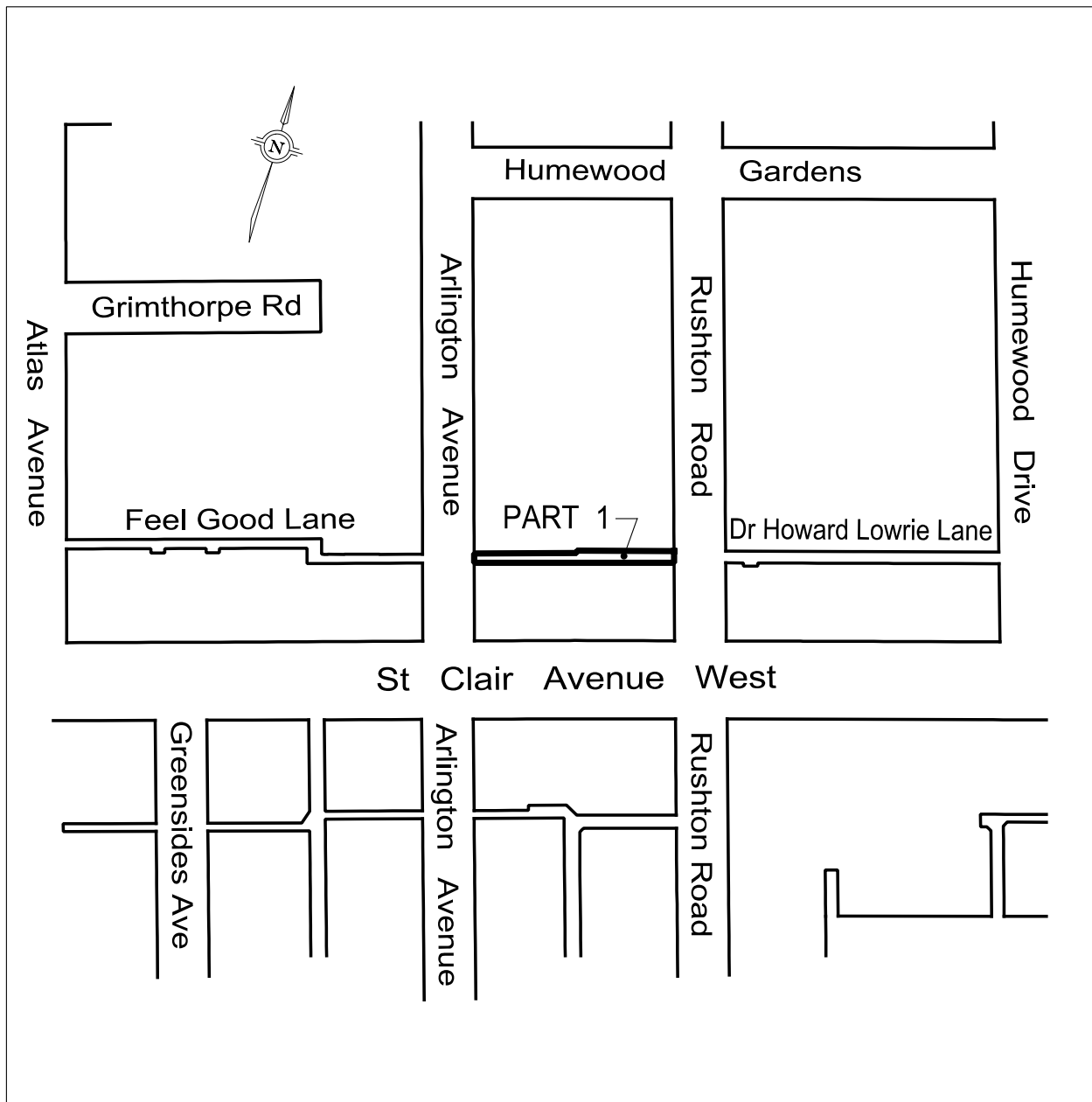
Mika Raisanen, P. Eng., Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services

## **ATTACHMENT**

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Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2018-025  
Attachment No. 2 Sketch No. PS-2018-026  
Attachment No. 3 Sketch No. PS-2018-027

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2018-025, showing the location of the public lane located north of St. Clair Avenue West, extending between Rushton Road and Arlington Avenue



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

CHECK BY: JOHN HOUSE  
PREPARED BY: BRIAN HALL

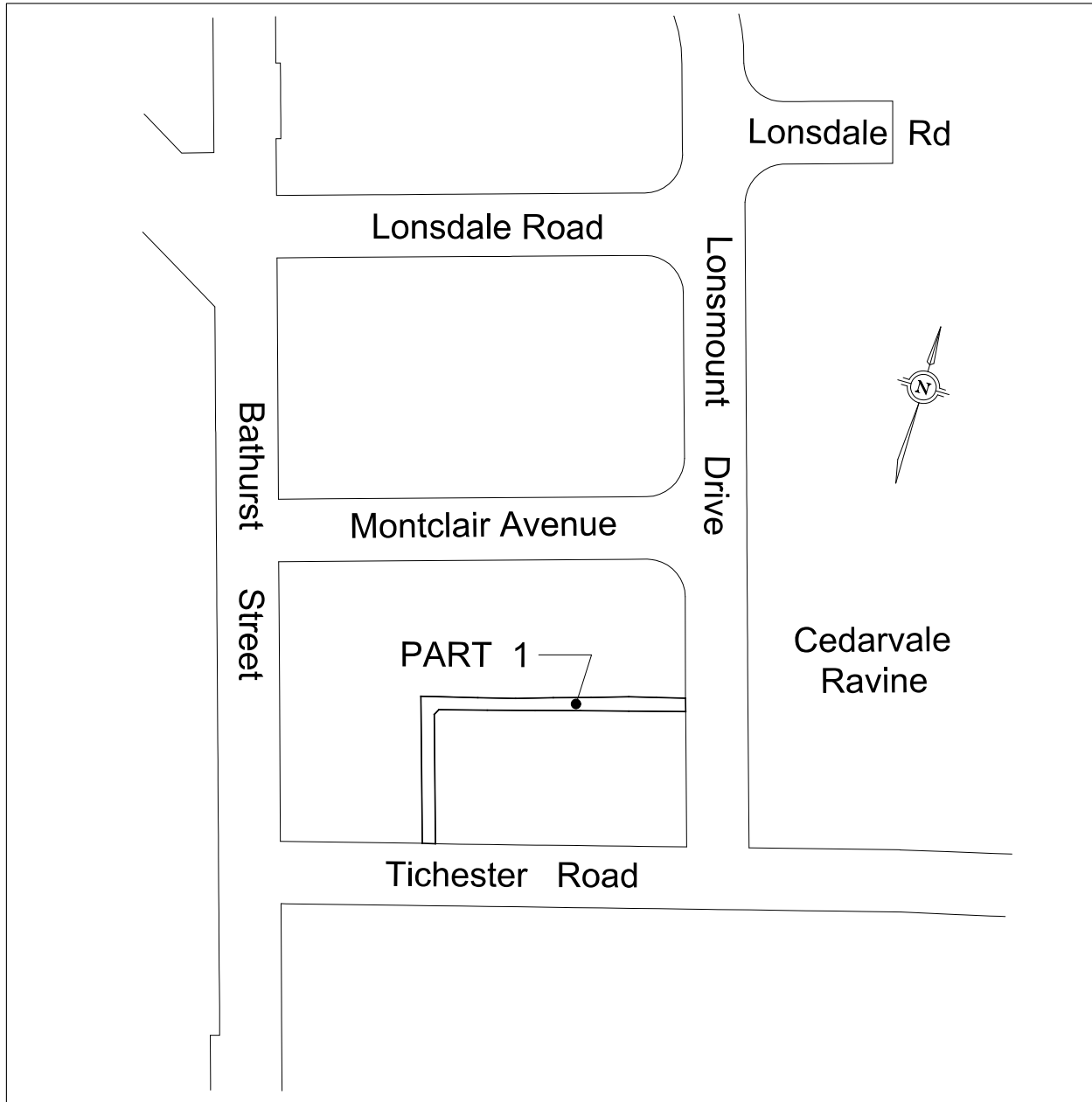
PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET

SKETCH SHOWING THE PUBLIC LANE NORTH OF  
ST CLAIR AVENUE WEST, BETWEEN RUSHTON ROAD  
AND ARLINGTON AVENUE

WARD 21 - ST PAUL'S  
DATE: MARCH 08, 2018

SKETCH No. PS-2018-025

Attachment No. 2 Sketch No. PS-2018-026, showing the location of the public lane located north of Tichester Road and east of Lonsmount Drive



NOTE:  
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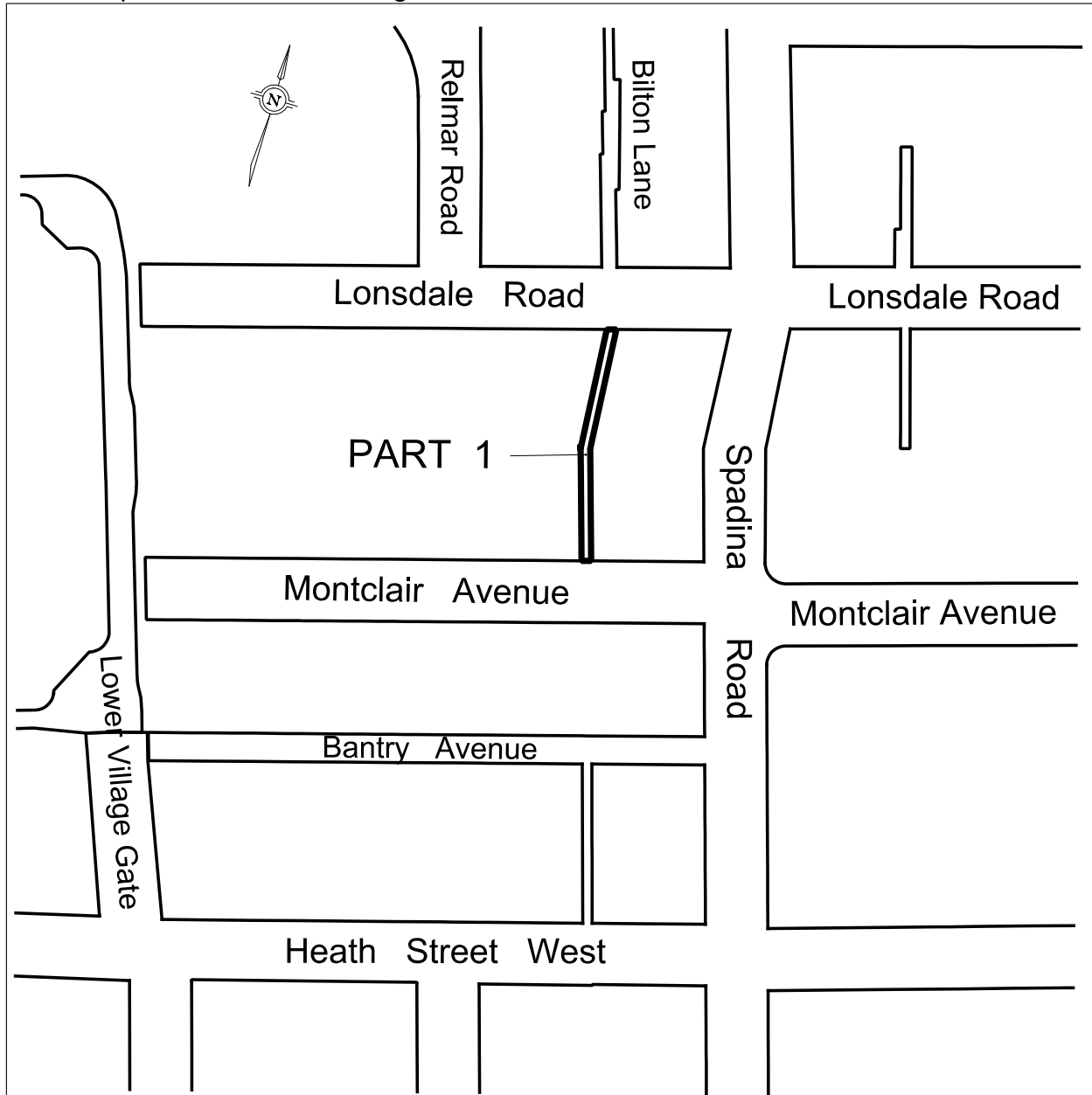
CHECK BY: JOHN HOUSE  
PREPARED BY: BRIAN HALL

WARD 21 - ST PAUL'S  
DATE: MARCH 08, 2018

PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET  
SKETCH SHOWING THE PUBLIC LANE BETWEEN  
TICHESTER ROAD AND LONSMOUNT DRIVE

SKETCH No. PS-2018-026

Attachment No. 3 Sketch No. PS-2018-027, showing the location of public lane located west of Spadina Road extending between Montclair Avenue and Lonsdale Road



NOTE:  
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RECORDS. MEASUREMENTS  
ARE APPROXIMATE

CHECK BY: JOHN HOUSE  
PREPARED BY: BRIAN HALL

WARD 21 - ST PAUL'S  
DATE: MARCH 08, 2018

PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET  
SKETCH SHOWING THE PUBLIC LANE WEST OF  
SPADINA ROAD BETWEEN MONTCLAIR  
AVENUE AND LONSDALE ROAD

SKETCH No. PS-2018-027