

Naming of Public Lanes Bounded by Harbord Street, Markham Street, College Street and Grace Street

Date: January 24, 2019

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

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

Wards: 11 University-Rosedale

SUMMARY

This report recommends names for 7 public lanes located in the blocks bounded Harbord Street, Markham Street, College Street, and Grace Street.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Approve the name "Alan Borovoy Lane" for the public lane north of College Street extending easterly from Grace Street then northerly to Jersey Avenue.
2. Approve the name "Beatrice Minden Lane" for a public lane east of Jersey Avenue, extending southerly from Harbord Street then easterly to Clinton Street.
3. Approve the name "Joe Bertucci Lane" for the public lane west of Manning Avenue extending southerly from Harbord Street.
4. Approve the name "Huggins Family Lane" for the public lane south of Harbord Street, extending between Clinton Street and Manning Avenue.
5. Approve the name "Morley Safer Lane" for the public lane north of College Street, extending westerly from Manning Avenue.
6. Approve the name "Via dei Giardini Lane" for the public lane in the block bounded by Ulster Street, Palmerston Boulevard, College Street and Euclid Avenue.

7. Approve the name "Wayne and Shuster Lane" for the public lane east of Palmerston Boulevard extending southerly from Ulster Street.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost to install 13 thirteen street name signs is approximately \$3250 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 October 20, 2016, an application was received from the Palmerston Area Residents Association via Councillor Layton's office, requesting that several lanes be named in the blocks bounded by Harbord Street, Markham Street, College Street, and Grace Street. The lanes are shown on Attachments 1, according to the following schedule:

Attachment 1 – Sketch No. PS-2017-008

Part #	Proposed Name
1	Alan Borovoy Lane
2	Beatrice Minden Lane
3	Joe Bertucci Lane
4	Huggins Family Lane
5	Morley Safer Lane
6	To be named at a later date
7	Via dei Giardini Lane
8	Wayne and Shuster Lane

The following summaries have been provided by the applicant:

Alan Borovoy Lane

"A Canadian lawyer and human rights activist best known as the long-time general counsel of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association. As a civil rights lawyer, he was actively engaged in the civic life of Toronto. The named party grew up on Grace St in his grandparents' house."

Alan Borovoy passed away on May 11, 2015

Consent was provided by Stuart Baltman, cousin of the named party.

Beatrice Minden Lane

"Ms. Minden donated an endowment to provide art education to the students at Clinton School, thousands of children have benefited from her generosity."

Beatrice Minden passed away on August 30, 2009.

Consent was provided by Jo-Ann Minden, daughter of the named party.

Joe Bertucci Lane

"Joe was a long-time resident & neighbourhood character, who, in Jane Jacobs-speak, sat on his porch, helped all his neighbours. His grandson still lives on Clinton St."

Joe Bertucci passed away on May 1, 2015.

Consent was provided by Concetta, Giuditta and Elisabetta Bertucci daughters of the named party, and Consolata Bertucci, wife of the named party.

Huggins Family Lane

"The Huggins family lived at 205 Clinton Street for more than half a century, among the first (and only) black families in the neighbourhood for many years. John Huggins hailed from the island of St. Kitts, where he was a police officer. Posted to the neighbouring island of Antigua, he met and married Wyvonie (or Yvonne), who had studied nursing in England. Seeking greater economic opportunity, they immigrated to Toronto and, after several years as renters in Kensington Market, were able to purchase a home on Clinton Street in the early- to mid-1960s.

Like many non-whites at the time, John was prevented by racial restrictions from finding work as a police officer in Toronto, so (again like many of his fellow Caribbean Canadians) he ended up working as a porter on the CNR for many years. Because Mr. Huggins' work involved so much travel, Wyvonie stayed at home (at least in the early years) to raise their four children – Adonica, Adonis, Arleen, and Allison - all of whom attended Clinton Street School (K-6), then King Edward (7 and 8). As one of the children put it in a recent interview, growing up black in an overwhelmingly white neighbourhood was not easy: "I have only positive memories of my classrooms (at Clinton Street School). It was in those public spaces like recess and going home for lunch... and after school. Those were the times I was confronted with racism... It was hard. There was a lot of name calling on the schoolyard." Through it all, though, the Huggins children found the strength (stoutly supported by their parents) to make their mark on the community as adults – as film makers, lawyers, and social activists.

A lane naming would honour this remarkable family and their contribution to the Palmerston area."

Wyvonie Huggins passed away on November 26, 2015.

Consent has been provided by Adonica Huggins, daughter of Wyvonie & John.

Morley Safer Lane

"Morey Safer (1931-2016), one of North America's best-known and admired television journalists, grew up at 514 Manning Avenue, between Ulster and Harbord. His father, Max, was an upholsterer by trade who, like so many others in the PARA community at the time, had immigrated to Toronto from central and eastern Europe in the early years of the 20th century. The family settled on Manning Avenue, where they lived throughout the Depression and World War II. Together with his siblings, Leon and Esther, Morley attended Clinton Street Public School (graduating from Grade 8 in 1946). From there he went attended Harbord Collegiate, and (briefly) UWO before getting his first job as a journalist.

Though he spent much of his life travelling the world as a foreign correspondent and working in New York for CBS, Morley had fond memories of his life growing up in the PARA neighbourhood and as a student at Clinton Street School. In a reminiscence produced for Clinton's 125th anniversary in 2013, Safer described the neighbourhood and Clinton School as follows: "Clinton served an ethnic patchwork quilt of children of working class immigrants – Jewish, Ukrainian, Scots, Irish, English, and Italian. Virtually all of the kids were first generation Canadians. The teachers were, for the most part severe, but fair and even then we had the feeling that their main priority was to give us a push up the social ladder, to give us the tools to succeed." It would seem fitting for the neighbourhood in which Morley Safer grew up to name the laneway behind his house Morley Safer Lane."

Morley Safer passed away May 29, 2016.

Consent was provided by Jane Safer, wife of the named party and Deborah, niece of the named party.

Via dei Giardini

"The five families (Vellone, Decaria, Rizzuto, Dadetta, Soldano) who emigrated in the early 1960s from Southern Italy, created gardens which had a special place in their hearts. Together, these families canned peppers and tomatoes in the Palmerston Community.

Giardini meaning gardens ...a piece of ground on which flowers, vegetables etc. are grown."

Wayne and Shuster Lane

"Wayne and Shuster were Canadian comedians. Johnny Wayne grew up at 351 Palmerston Boulevard which backs onto the beginning of this laneway, and both Wayne and Shuster attended Harbord Collegiate Institute. Wayne met Frank Shuster while attending Harbord Collegiate."

Johnny Wayne passed away in 1990.

Frank Shuster passed away in 2002.

Consent has been provided by Rosalind Shuster, daughter of the named party.

Consent has been provided by Michael Wayne, son of the named party.

All of the proposed names have been circulated for comment and are acceptable to Toronto Police Service, Toronto Fire Services, and Toronto Paramedic Services and Councillor Layton.

Community Support was demonstrated via a petition of signatures from the property owners/residents abutting the lanes.

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

[Street Naming Policy](#)

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2017-008

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2017-008, showing the location of the public lanes bounded by Harbord Street, Markham Street, College Street and Grace Street.

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2017-008

