

Naming of an Existing Public Lane Located East of Shaw Street, Extending Southerly from Barton Avenue

Date: February 27, 2018

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

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

Wards: 11 University-Rosedale

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the name "Sandra Shamas Lane" be approved to identify an existing public lane located east of Shaw Street, extending southerly from Barton 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 "Sandra Shamas Lane" for an existing public lane located east of Shaw Street, extending southerly from Barton 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

An application was received on May 8, 2018 from a resident to name the existing lane located east of Shaw Street, extending southerly from Barton Avenue, "Sandra Shamas Lane", in honour of a Canadian comedian, writer and award winning theatrical performer.

"Sandra Shamas Lane"

Sandra Shamas is a comedian, writer and award-winning theatrical performer with deep roots in Toronto theatrical community.

Born in Sudbury, Ontario in 1957, Sandra moved to the Bloor/Bathurst area of Toronto in 1985. She began her theatrical career with Second City comedy troupe, worked in Improv theatre and doing stand-up comedy, then worked as a puppeteer for the legendary Jim Henson (the Muppets, Fraggle Rock).

In 1987, Sandra was inspired to write and produce a series of one-woman autobiographical shows. Her first show, entitled My Boyfriend's Back And There's Gonna Be Laundry, debuted at the Edmonton Fringe Festival, where she performed it to sell-out crowds. It was her first experience in solo theatre, and as she later said, the first time she had stood alone on a stage for more than seven minutes in her entire life.

She brought the show back to Toronto, where she produced and performed it at Factory Theatre. Again, it was very successfully received. Encouraged by its reception, Sandra wrote, produced and performed a second show, entitled My Boyfriend's Back And There's Gonna Be Laundry: The Cycle Continues. Her audience continued to grow and her second show sold out Toronto's legendary Winter Garden Theatre for weeks.

Sandra Shames describes these formative years in our Ward 19 (now Ward 11) neighbourhood as among the happiest of her young life. She spent a lot of her free time in Seaton Walk Parkette, right behind the legendary Bloor Cinema (now the Hot Docs Cinema) and in Christie Pits. This area of Toronto in the late 1980s was an exciting, diverse community with boundless opportunity for her to develop creative skills and hone the craft for which she has since become so renowned.

A third show, entitled Wedding Bell Hell, followed on the heels of her first two shows. Once again, it had a lengthy sell-out run at the Winter Garden Theatre. To date, Sandra has written, produced and performed seven one-woman shows. She has taken her shows to the USA and to London's Old Vic Theatre. She has won a Gemini Award for Best Performance in Comedy, an HBO Comedy Award for Theater at the U.S. Comedy Arts Festival, was nominated for a Stephen Leacock Award, and in February 2018 Sandra Shamas was appointed to the Order of Ontario for her immense 30-year contribution to the arts in Toronto.

Sandra donates her time to various Toronto charitable endeavours, including headlining the annual LEAF Gala (Women's Legal Education and Action Fund). She owns and operates a farm just outside Toronto, where she is an ardent advocate for the

preservation of arable farmland and is a sought-after guest speaker at events encouraging and supporting community volunteerism.

She remains deeply rooted In the Bloor/Bathurst/Christie neighbourhood of Toronto where her theatrical legacy was first conceived and developed and where she first found a safe and supportive community for her art to develop and thrive. To name one of our laneways after Sandra Shamas would be to pay tribute to both her enormous artistic contribution and to the neighbourhood that encouraged her to flourish.

Consent was given by Ms. Shamas, the named party.

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

Community support was demonstrated with a petition of signatures from property owners/ residents who directly abut the lane.

The lane is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2018-104.

This naming proposal complies with the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy.

[Street Naming Policy](#)

CONTACT

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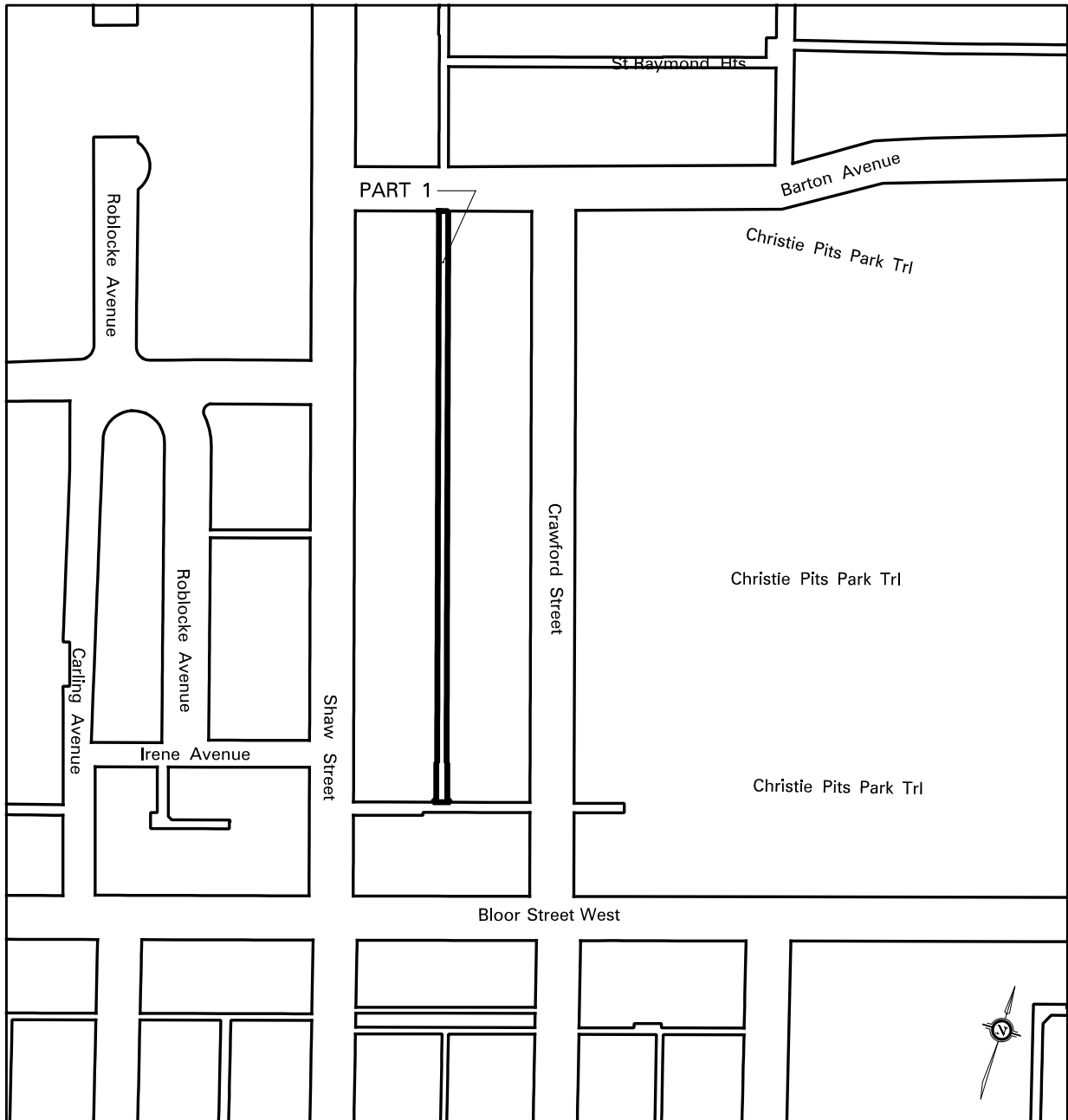
SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2018-104

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2018-104, showing the location of an existing public lane east of Shaw Street, extending southerly from Barton Avenue.



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 AN EXISTING PUBLIC LANE LOCATED
EAST OF SHAW STREET, EXTENDING SOUTHERLY
FROM BARTON AVENUE

WARD 11 – UNIVERSITY-ROSEDALE
DATE: OCTOBER 26, 2018

SKETCH N . PS-2018-104