

## **Naming of an existing Public Lane north of College Street, extending between Crawford Street and Montrose Street**

**Date:** April 3, 2019

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

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

**Wards:** 11 University Rosedale

### **SUMMARY**

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This report recommends that the name "Galipo Brothers Lane" be approved to identify an existing public lane located north of College Street, extending between Crawford Street and Montrose Street.

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 "Galipo Brothers Lane" for an existing public lane located north of College Street, extending between Crawford Street and Montrose Street.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The cost to install two street name signs is approximately \$500 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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An application was received on March 7, 2019 from Lisa Martino, a family member of the named parties, to name the existing lane located north of College Street, extending between Crawford Street and Montrose Street, "Galipo Brothers Lane", honoring the 4 Galipo brothers who founded, owned and operated a local ice cream shop on College Street for many years. The following information was provided by the applicant:

### **Galipo Brothers**

*"This is a story like no other. It's one of hard work, dedication, and a little bit of faith. Four young men with nothing but a dream of a better life. A selfless leap. A plan to support their families. To establish themselves in such a way that would prove them worthy of being Canadian. They put the dream into action and saying they succeeded is quite the understatement.*

*Aurelio, Natale, Franco, and Giuseppe immigrated to Canada in the late 1950s. The hustle and bustle of Pier 21 was quite foreshadowing of what their lives would become on this new land. They found a house on Crawford Street, but they found home in 712 College Street. On May 28 1959, with wives in hand and babies on the way, the four brothers dug their roots into their first piece of land.*

*The idea was to provide a comforting taste of home to other immigrants coming in from Italy. It was to create a community. They would sell coffee and gelato in their small storefront cafe. They used their original Sicilian recipes to craft the gelato in the back. It was shortly after that they would begin receiving requests to cater functions, growing as large as traditional Italian weddings consisting of hundreds of people.*

*In 1980 the brothers purchased two homes behind the cafe, on Montrose Avenue, and tore them down to build a factory, where they would produce large quantities to keep up with demand. Their wholesale business grew more every year, leaving them reliant on the help of the second generation.*

*The second generation began working in the business in the 1980's, when the girls were trained to run the storefront, the boys were taught the art of gelato, and both were taught how to make the perfect espresso. The torch was officially passed down to the second generation in the 1990's, however retirement was never in question for the brothers.*

*A new chapter of the Sicilian story began in 2004, when a second expansion was much needed. The second generation purchased a piece of land in Vaughan, and designed and built a new facility. Today, the product originally created by the Galipo Brothers is available in major supermarkets, small independents, Italian bakeries throughout the City, and of course, at Sicilian Sidewalk Cafe, which still resides on College Street.*

*I am proud to say that in June of 2010 at the young age of 15, I became the first member of the third generation to step into the business. Every day I'm grateful for the legacy my grandfather Aurelio and my uncles have created. My goal is to pass it on another three generations. Although the last name may eventually come to the end of*

*its line, the Galipo blood is very much flowing through myself, the rest of the Galipo family, and generations to come.*

*Beyond just the Galipo family, the brothers touched the lives of many immigrants and locals, high class and low, young and old. Sicilian Ice Cream became a place of family. It's a place full of regulars that started working there at 18, watched me grow up in the cafe, and now I'm watching their children grow up in the same cafe. Sicilian's is a continuous circle of life. We've loved, we've lost, we've cried; but we've done them all together as a family.*

*Childhood customers have started families, employees have moved on to new endeavours, and locals have moved away, but what remains are the stories they hold in their hearts. Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia; Canada. Florida, New York, Nebraska, Ohio, Virginia, Texas, Oklahoma, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Nevada, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, North Carolina, Wisconsin; United States of America. Ornskoldsvik; Sweden. Redditch; Great Britain, Sicily, Sora; Italy.*

*After creating an online petition, it took less than 3 days to spread to over 50 cities, three provinces, and 15 states. It has dawned on me that this story, the one of four immigrants just hoping for a better life, touched the lives of people all across the world. The story of the four Galipo Brothers was at some point shared across Canada, in the United States, Sweden, Great Britain, and Italy.*

*Today only one brother remains alive, my uncle Natale. To pay tribute to him as well as his late brothers, with worldwide support behind me, I am requesting to name the city laneway north of College Street, connecting Crawford Street and Montrose Avenue "Galipo Brothers Lane", as a token of my gratitude to his leap of faith, his struggles, his hardships, and his successes.*

*It is a story beyond Little Italy, beyond the city of Toronto, and beyond the route from Capo d'Orlando, Sicily to Pier 21. It is a story beyond borders; one with only a start, no end. A story to pass on for generations. One built from the ground up, etched in a concrete step, and one day cemented into the City of Toronto.*

Consent was given by Belfiore Natale Galipo, remaining surviving brother.

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 as well as letters of support from local community members and organizations. A petition of general community support was also submitted by the applicant.

The lane is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2019-025. This naming proposal complies with the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy.

[Street Naming Policy](#)

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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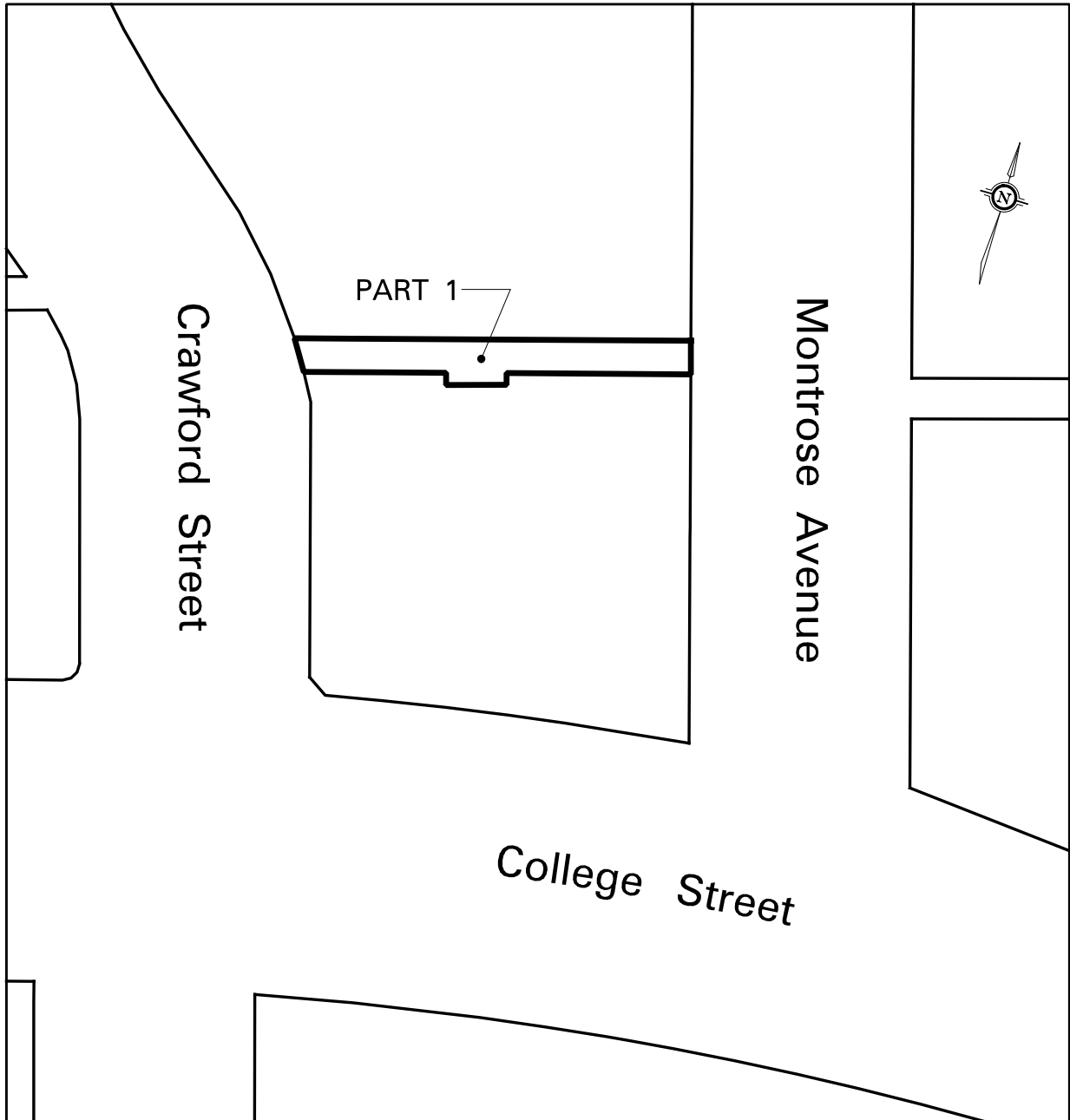
Mika Raisanen, P. Eng., Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2019-025

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2019-025, showing the location of an existing public lane located north of College Street, extending between Crawford Street and Montrose Street.



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 NORTH OF  
COLLEGE STREET, EXTENDING BETWEEN  
CRAWFORD STREET AND MONTROSE AVENUE

WARD 11 – UNIVERSITY-ROSEDALE  
DATE: MARCH 14, 2019

SKETCH No. PS-2019-025