

## **Naming of an existing Public Lane south of Richmond Street West, extending easterly from Tecumseth Street**

**Date:** June 4, 2019

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

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

**Wards:** 10 Spadina-Fort York

### **SUMMARY**

---

This report recommends that the name "Nanak Lane" be approved to identify an existing public lane south of Richmond Street West, extending easterly from Tecumseth Street.

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 "Nanak Lane" for an existing public lane south of Richmond Street West, extending easterly from Tecumseth Street.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

---

The cost to install street name signage is approximately \$250 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 13, 2019, from a resident requesting to name the existing lane public lane south of Richmond Street West, extending easterly from Tecumseth Street, "Nanak Lane honoring the teachings and founder of Sikhism.

The applicant is requesting addressing for an unnamed public lane for their proposed rear lane suite. The proposed suite has no access from Richmond St W, and thus must be addressed from the public lane at the rear of the property. This naming request is pursuant to and required in order to proceed with the municipal addressing application at this site.

### **"Nanak Lane"**

*"Honouring Guru Nanak Dev Ji (1469-1539), the founder of Sikhism. He was a leader who undertook many long journeys, for many years, to enlighten and improve humanity.*

*In addition to educating, he collected the writings of others wherever he could find them. His gatherings included people from all walks of life and beliefs:*

*His message included the following important beliefs and principles:*

- *All human beings are created equal. Nobody is superior or inferior based on differences;*
- *One must earn a living by honest means;*
- *One should help the needy; and*
- *All must be treated with respect*

Section 3.10 of the Street Naming Policy requires that the applicant provide written consent of either the named party or their representative.

The applicant indicated that a request to obtain consent in this situation is not appropriate and thus despite efforts, the applicant was unable to secure any form of consent. Section 3.10 of the Street Naming Policy allows for the approval of a name without consent, provided reasonable efforts were made to obtain same:

*3.10 Naming or renaming a Street, or assigning a ceremonial name to a Street, on behalf of an individual, event, or an organization requires the written consent of the named party or the named party's representative.*

*3.10.1 In circumstances where consent has not been received, despite reasonable efforts, the City, in absence of any refusal to provide consent or legal concerns, may approve the name if the applicant is able to demonstrate efforts to obtain consent to the satisfaction of the City.*

The following demonstrates the efforts made to obtain consent:

**Email dated May 22, 2019 from Applicant:**

*"Asking for consent is an inappropriate and insensitive request for something of this nature...."*

*As a Sikh, I would consider myself family of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. I have the right to honour the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji as I see fit. As all human beings under the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji are considered equal, there is no authority or hierarchy from which consent is required..."*

**Email dated May 22, 2019 from a prominent member of the Sikh Community:**

*"On the subject of naming a public lane in Toronto after Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism and who was born in 1469 in western India, now in Pakistan. Guru Nanak traveled on foot for 23 years and visited the whole Indian subcontinent including Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangla Desh, and parts of China, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arab, Turkey and possibly Rome too delivering the universal message of equality for all humans, peaceful co-existence of all races and all nations. He fought for respect for women, and against any injustice and oppression against any part of the society or against individuals. His teachings are universal and He was loved equally by Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and all other religions.*

*The Year 2019 is the 550th Birthday of the great Guru, and the whole world is honouring Him in one form or the other. There are already quite a few institutions that have been named after Him in different parts of the world. There are wings in well-known public hospitals in His name in Edmonton, and in Grande Prairie, Alberta, CA. Every Sikh and all other people who know Him, will feel very proud to see a public lane named after Him. I do not expect any one, who knows something about Guru Nanak to object to this proposal.*

*I am a devout Sikh, and can claim to be a representative of Sikhism. So, in that capacity, I recommend very strongly that the lane in question be named after Guru Nanak".*

**Email dated May 22, 2019 from the World Sikh Organization:**

*"In my understanding, there is no person or organization that would have the authority to provide consent on behalf of Sri Guru Nanak. He is the founder of the Sikh faith and there is no clergy or formal representative that could speak on his behalf."*

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

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

The lane is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2019-071.

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

[Street Naming Policy](#)

## **CONTACT**

---

John House, Acting Manager, Land and Property Surveys, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services, Telephone: 416 392-8338, Email: John.House@toronto.ca

## **SIGNATURE**

---

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

## **ATTACHMENTS**

---

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2019-071

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2019-071, showing the location of an existing public lane located south of Richmond Street West, extending easterly from Tecumseth Street.

