

Naming of an existing Public Lane south of Barton Avenue, extending easterly from Clinton Street

Date: September 11, 2019

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 "Miriam Garfinkle Lane" be approved to identify an existing public lane south of Barton Avenue, extending easterly from Clinton 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 "Miriam Garfinkle Lane" for an existing public lane south of Barton Avenue, extending easterly from Clinton 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

A completed application was received on May 20, 2019, from a resident requesting to name the existing public lane south of Barton Avenue, extending easterly from Clinton Street, "Miriam Garfinkle Lane" to honor his late spouse, a local community figure and advocate.

The following background and documentation was provided by the applicant:

"Miriam Garfinkle Lane"

"Dr. Miriam Garfinkle (1954-2018) lived at 111 Barton Avenue, in a house which backs onto this laneway. She worked for a number of years to improve the laneway, notably by creating a "Community Laneway Garden" along the side of the laneway. She cleared away garbage and pieces of brick and concrete which had been dumped there over the years, fertilized the soil with compost from her backyard compost bin, and planted a variety of indigenous wildflowers and plants, including milkweed. The milkweed plants successfully attracted Monarch butterflies which laid eggs on them; some of these eggs were then collected and hatched in a protected environment by two Monarch butterfly conservationists living on Euclid Avenue.

She created a sign identifying the Community Laneway Garden as a shared community resource, which motivated several nearby residents to become involved in helping to care for the garden.

She was also active in the nearby Frankel-Lambert Community Garden, where in addition to producing tomatoes, rapini, kale, and garlic, she worked to do outreach to local community members, including residents of nearby seniors' buildings, to encourage them to become involved in the garden. It was one of her ongoing goals to make the membership of the garden more reflective of the diversity of the surrounding community, including Indigenous people. In the last year of her life, she shared her garden plot with a young friend from NishDish, the Indigenous restaurant at Clinton and Bloor which she strongly supported.

Miriam Garfinkle was a long-time resident of Seaton Village and the Annex, and a community activist. She lived at 848 Manning Avenue from 1980 to 1985, at 142 Albany from 1985 to 1999, and at 111 Barton Avenue from 2000 until her death in 2018. She practised medicine at the Immigrant Women's Health Centre on College Street, at the Palmerston Health Centre at Palmerston near Bloor; at the Spadina Health Centre; and at the Regent Park Community Health Centre.

Her children attended local schools (Palmerston, Huron Street, King Edward, and Harbord Collegiate) and she was very active in working to support the public school system. Her family ties in the area go back even further: both of her parents attended Harbord Collegiate.

She was active in the community in a number of other ways, for example by advocating for traffic calming measures on Albany Avenue (in collaboration with Jane Jacobs) and Barton Avenue. In 1997, she founded, and played in, a successful women's hockey league at Bill Bolton Arena. She also played shinny at the rink in Christie Pits.

She was also active in larger issues: her house was notable for displaying signs expressing her opposition to the Line 9 pipeline and jets on the Island airport. She made a number of presentations at City Hall, speaking in favour of support for women's reproductive health services and action on climate change".

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

Consent was provided by the spouse of the named party.

Miriam Garfinkle passed away on September 15, 2018.
This naming was reviewed under the provisions of Section 3.8 of the Street Naming Policy which states:

"3.8 Street names, including ceremonial names, shall not:

"3.8.6 Make a direct or indirect reference to recent events or recently deceased individuals, except where the event or the individual had a legacy or significant contributions to the City of Toronto. Names of recent events or recently deceased individual may be considered after two years"

Based on the legacy of significant contributions made by Miriam Garfinkle, it is determined that this naming is in compliance with the Street Naming Policy.

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-2019-101.

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

[Street Naming Policy](#)

CONTACT

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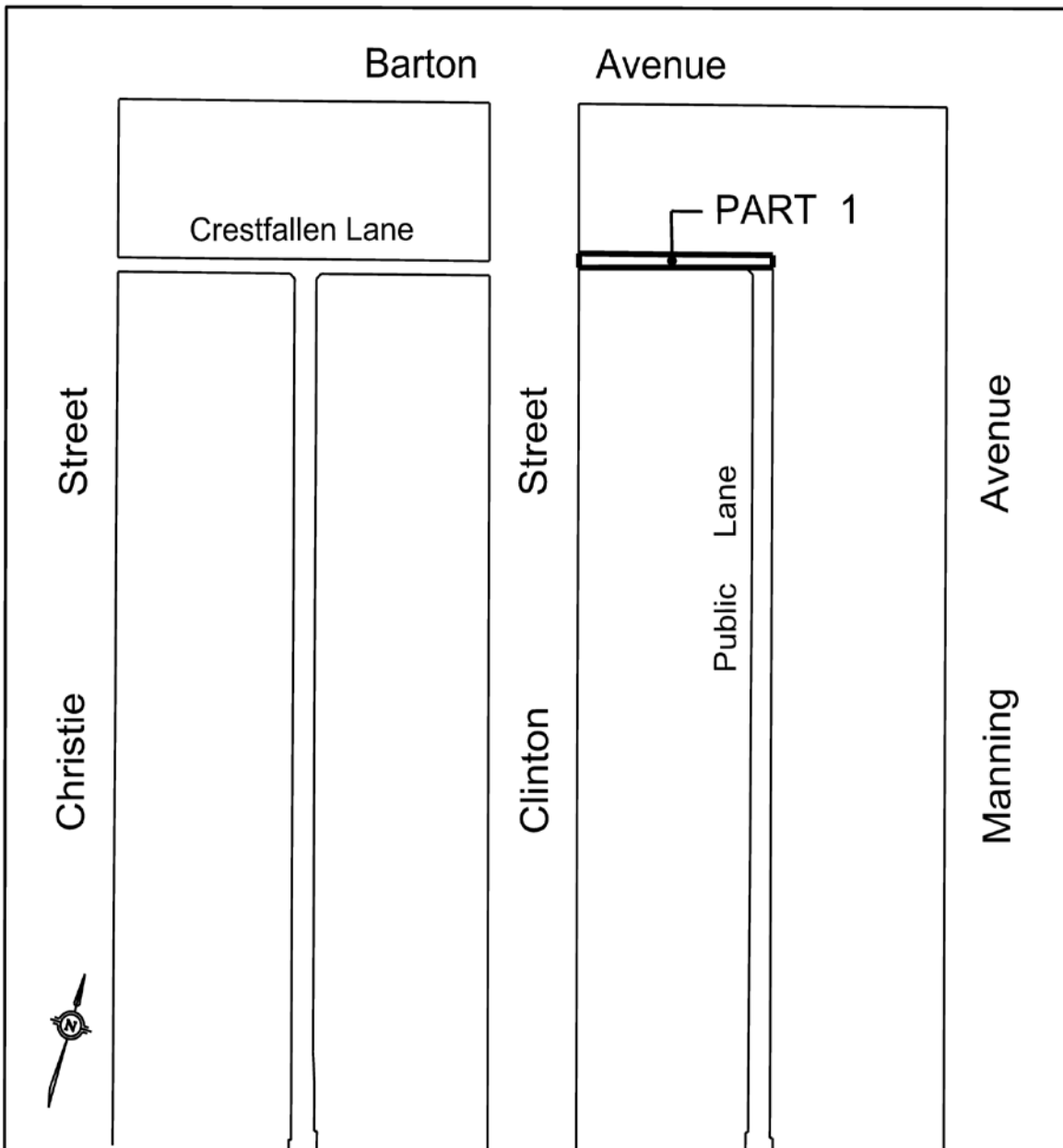
SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2019-101

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2019-101, showing the location of an existing public lane located south of Barton Avenue, extending easterly from Clinton Street



<p>Toronto ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION SERVICES ENGINEERING SUPPORT SERVICES LAND & PROPERTY SURVEYS</p>	<p>PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET</p>	
<p>NOTE: THIS SKETCH HAS BEEN COMPILED FROM OFFICE RECORDS. MEASUREMENTS ARE APPROXIMATE</p>	<p>NAMING OF AN EXISTING PUBLIC LANE SOUTH OF BARTON AVENUE, EXTENDING EASTERLY FROM CLINTON STREET</p>	
<p>CHECKED BY: JOHN HOUSE PREPARED BY: BRIAN HALL</p>	<p>WARD 11 - UNIVERSITY - ROSEDALE DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2019</p>	<p>SKETCH No. PS-2019-101</p>