

Naming of an existing Public Lane east of Tecumseth Street, extending southerly from Richmond Street West

Date: October 18, 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 "Gershon Iskowitz Lane" be approved to identify an existing public lane east of Tecumseth Street, extending southerly from Richmond Street West.

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 "Gershon Iskowitz Lane" for an existing public lane east of Tecumseth Street, extending southerly from Richmond Street West.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost to install street name signage 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 July 16, 2019, from The Gershon Iskowitz Foundation to name the existing public lane east of Tecumseth Street, extending southerly from Richmond Street as, "Gershon Iskowitz Lane" in honour of a Canadian artist with ties to community off of Tecumseth St.

The following background and documentation was provided by the applicant:

"Gershon Iskowitz Lane"

"Gershon Iskowitz (1921 to 1988) was a Canadian artist of Jewish background originally from Poland. Iskowitz was a Holocaust survivor of the Kielce Ghetto, who was liberated at Buchenwald. He immigrated to Canada in 1949. He had a long association with Gallery Moos, his work is in the collections of all the major museums in Canada, and the Art Gallery of Ontario held a 40 year retrospective of his work in 1982. He had a studio at 58 Tecumseth Street for many years.

In gratitude for the value that artistic grants had given to his career he established the Gershon Iskowitz Foundation in 1985. Since its inception, the foundation has focused on supporting the Gershon Iskowitz Prize, now presented in partnership with the Art Gallery of Ontario. The Gershon Iskowitz Foundation has awarded a prize to a Canadian artist every year since 1986. Initially, the amount of the Prize was \$25,000 but it was increased to \$50,000 in 2011.

"As a survivor of concentration camps in Poland, Gershon Iskowitz became a witness to the Holocaust in his drawings and memory works from the years 1941–54. After some time in Canada, he began to paint landscapes around Parry Sound, though his expression vastly differed from the Group of Seven's nationalist ideals. A breakthrough came in 1967 after a flight to Churchill, Manitoba, when he discovered his unique Canadian landscape in abstract panoramic images of land and sky painted in brilliant, luminous colours. Although he was familiar with current art movements, his style remained entirely his own. His legacy lives on through the Gershon Iskowitz Foundation and many works in public and private collections."

"Iskowitz's routine ensured he was part of an artist's village where he felt comfortable. It was roughly bordered by Tecumseth Street to the west, Yonge Street to the east, King Street to the south, and Scollard Street to the north. He could walk to Gwartzman's Art Supplies, at 448 Spadina, where he purchased the painting materials he needed. He frequented artists' hangouts: Grossman's Tavern, south of his Spadina studio; the Pilot Tavern (first on Yonge north of Bloor, then on Cumberland Street); and later the Wheatsheaf Tavern at the intersection of King and Bathurst streets."

In light of his significance as an artist, a benefactor to the artistic community, and his solid ties to Tecumseth Street, we believe it would be appropriate to name the lane in his honour."

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

Consent was provided by a representative of the Gershon Iskowitz Foundation.

Community support was demonstrated with a petition of signatures from property owners/ residents who directly abut the lane. The Gershon Iskowitz Foundation supports this naming proposal.

The lane is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2019-114.

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

[Street Naming Policy](#)

CONTACT

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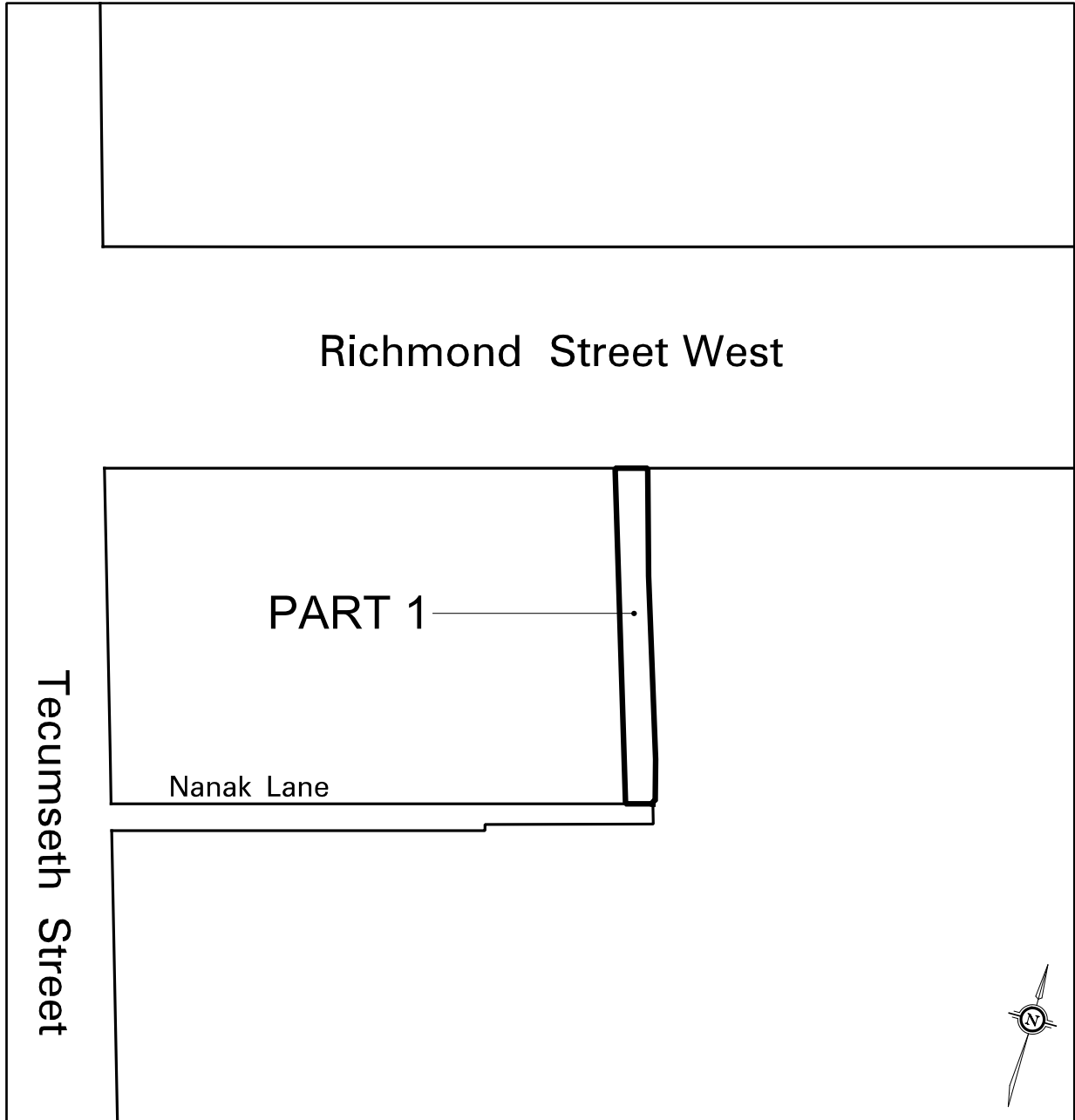
SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2019-114

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2019-114, showing the location of an existing public lane located east of Tecumseth Street, extending southerly from Richmond Street West.



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 EAST OF
TECUMSETH STREET, EXTENDING SOUTHERLY FROM
RICHMOND STREET WEST

WARD 10 - SPADINA-FORT YORK
DATE: OCTOBER 03, 2019

SKETCH No. PS-2019-114