

Naming of an existing Public Lane north of Queen Street East, extending between Parliament Street and Trefan Street

Date: October 18, 2019

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

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

Wards: 13 Toronto Centre

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the name "Myer Willinsky Lane" be approved to identify an existing public lane north of Queen Street East, extending between Parliament Street and Trefan 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 "Myer Willinsky Lane" for an existing public lane north of Queen Street East, extending between Parliament Street and Trefan Street.

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 August 6, 2019, from the Corktown Residents and Business Association (CRBA) requesting to name the existing public lane north of Queen Street East, extending between Parliament Street and Trefan Street as, "Myer Willinsky Lane" in recognition and acknowledgment of the founder of the first ever purpose-built movie theatre in Corktown named IDLE HOUR.

The following background and documentation was provided by the applicant:

"Myer Willinsky Lane"

"Myer Lionel Willinsky was born in Poland; the youngest of three brothers, he immigrated to the United States while in his early twenties. In the 1880's he was living in Kansas City where he met and married Sarah Vise, daughter of Rachel and Benjamin Vise. The Willinskys then moved to Omaha, Nebraska, where they started a family. Following the birth of their third child they returned to Toronto, the same place Benjamin Vise had settled a few years earlier. United again, the family found living accommodations at King and Sackville Streets in Corktown, Toronto."

"In 1907, Myer L. Willinsky purchased a lot then contracted Wilbur Ralph Webb to design a purpose built theatre he named the IDLE HOUR that opened in 1909 at 364/366 Queen Street East. When it opened, the IDLE HOUR was the only "amusement" movie picture house servicing the areas east of Victoria Street to the Don River, and from Bloor Street south to Lake Ontario. By the time Myer L. Willinsky opened his movie theatre, the family had moved out of Corktown however, he kept operating the IDLE HOUR until 1918. About four years later Willinsky leased the space to the Imperial Theatre, Corktown's second cinema that opened in 1915 at St. Paul's Parish Hall, on Tracy Street. Continuing to operate under different management, Willinsky kept the property until 1929, when he sold it."

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

Consent was provided by the family of the named party.

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 groups such as CRBA Heritage Committee and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

This naming proposal complies with the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy which can be found at <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/street-naming/>

The lane is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2019-113.

CONTACT

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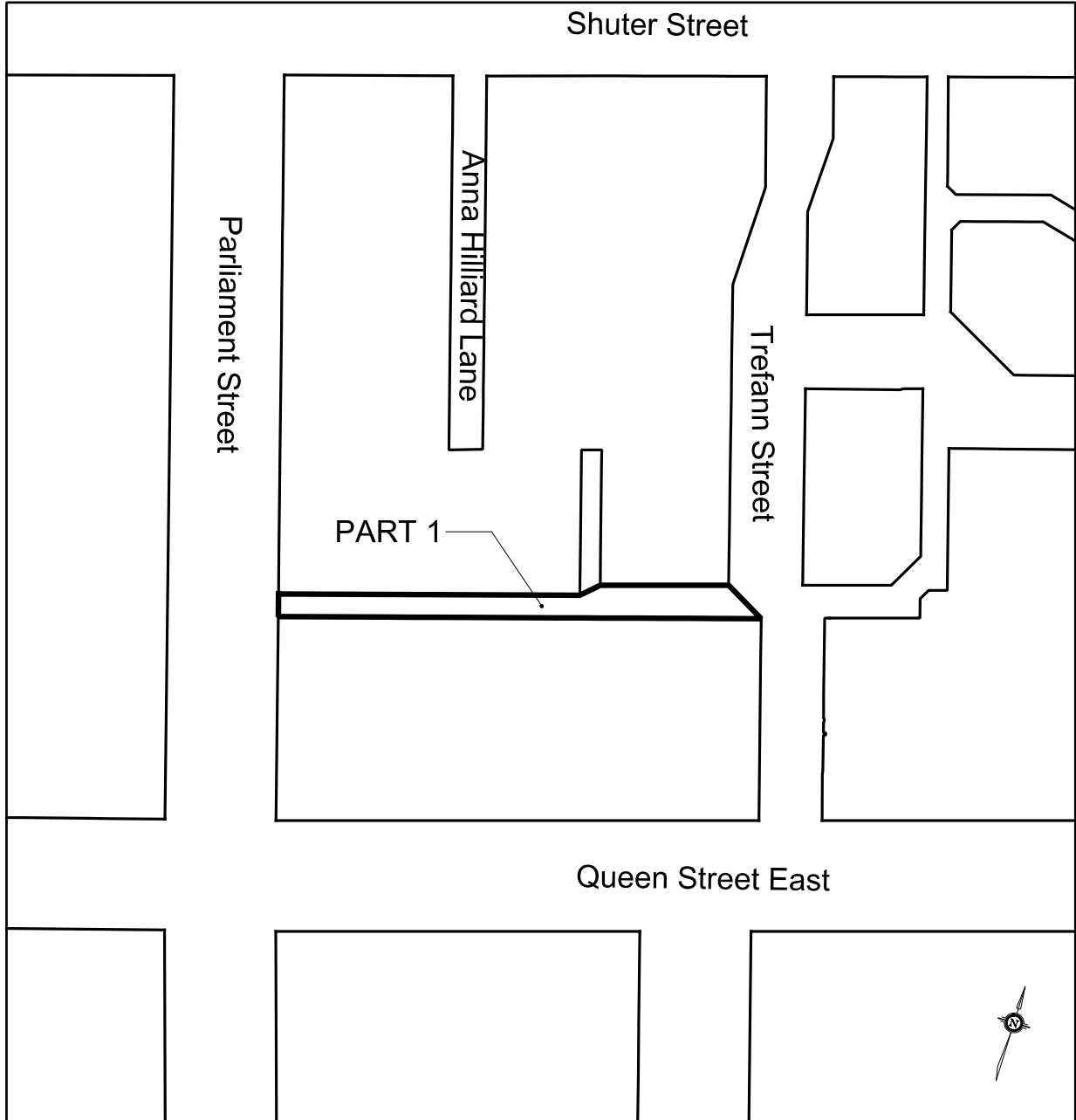
SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2019-113

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2019-113, showing the location of an existing public lane located north of Queen Street East, extending between Parliament Street and Trefann 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
QUEEN STREET EAST, EXTENDING BETWEEN
PARLIAMENT STREET AND TREFAN STREET**

WARD 13 - TORONTO CENTRE
DATE: OCTOBER 03, 2019

SKETCH No. PS-2019-113