

Renaming of Locksley Avenue extending between Eglinton Avenue West and Hopewell Avenue

Date: September 11, 2020

To: North York Community Council

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

Wards: 8 Eglinton-Lawrence

SUMMARY

This report recommends approval of the renaming of Locksley Avenue, extending between Eglinton Avenue West and Hopewell Avenue to "Jimmy Wisdom Way".

Renaming of streets is addressed in section 3.4 of the Street Naming Policy which states:

6.1.3 Documented support, including but not limited to petitions and support letters, from at least 75 percent of property owners that abut the street;

Although documented support from 75 percent of the abutting properties owners was not achieved, there was an abundance of documented general community support as included in the comments section of this report. Therefore, this report recommends approval of the renaming of Locksley Avenue, extending between Eglinton Avenue West and Hopewell Avenue to "Jimmy Wisdom Way".

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 North York Community Council:

1. Approve the name "Jimmy Wisdom Way" for the renaming of Locksley Avenue extending between Eglinton Avenue West and Hopewell Avenue.

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

On August 18, 2020, an application was received from Councillor Colle's office to rename a portion of Locksley Avenue extending between Eglinton Avenue West and Hopewell Avenue as "Jimmy Wisdom Way", in honour of a local community figure in Toronto's Caribbean community.

The following rationale and background was submitted as part of the application by Councillor Colle's office:

"Jimmy Wisdom"

Jimmy Wisdom was an integral part in shaping Toronto's Caribbean community and was widely loved across all of Toronto.

After a storied career as a musician, Jimmy Wisdom opened Wisdom's Barber Shop & Hairdressing Salon where he worked with his wife Merva for over 50 years.

The passion and dedication Jimmy brought to the community will continue to live in the hearts and minds of all those fortunate enough to meet him.

This is why I believe, on behalf of Toronto's Caribbean community, and Toronto as a whole, that Jimmy Wisdom Way be used to represent and celebrate one of the founding fathers of Little Jamaica".

The following letters were prepared and submitted by various local community groups:

Letter from York-Eglinton BIA – Dated July 23, 2020

"I am writing with respect to a proposal to rename Locksley Avenue, from Hopewell Avenue to Eglinton Avenue West to Jimmy Wisdom Way in memory of Jimmy Wisdom who passed away on November 28, 2019.

Mr. Wisdom was a proud member of the York- Eglinton Business Improvement (BIA) since our founding in 1982. He had a successful, 50 year career as a Barber, creating the iconic business located on Eglinton Avenue West called "Wisdom's Barber Shop and Beauty Salon".

On behalf of the Board of Management and members of the York Eglinton BIA, we are in full support of renaming Locksley Avenue between Hopewell Avenue and Eglinton

Avenue West to Jimmy Wisdom Way. We believe this would be an appropriate and beautiful tribute to a man who made a positive impact on the lives of so many in our neighbourhood".

Letter from St Hilda's Church - Dated August 5, 2020

"We received a letter from Councillor Mike Colle with respect to the proposal to rename a section of Locksley Avenue from Hopewell Avenue to Eglinton Avenue West, Jimmy Wisdom Way.

Jimmy Wisdom was a pillar in the Jamaican Community and his sudden passing was a tremendous loss for Toronto's Caribbean community and all of Toronto.

Renaming the proposed section of Locksley Avenue, Jimmy Wisdom Way would be a fitting honour to his memory, giving him the full recognition he deserves".

Letter from Black Action Committee Defense Inc. - Dated August 27, 2020

"It is a pleasure to give our support to this worthy initiative of renaming the above-noted street Jimmy Wisdom Way. This is a fitting tribute to Jimmy Wisdom, who was an institution on the Eglinton Avenue West strip between Marlee Avenue and Dufferin Street. To honour his memory in this way is the right thing to do. Mr. Wisdom spent most of his life in Toronto, Ontario doing business on Eglinton Avenue West.

Mr. Jimmy Wisdom has been an excellent community builder and supporter and to support this initiative is definitely our way of saying: "Thank you Jimmy Wisdom for making Toronto a better place to live".

Letter from Jamaican Canadian Association – Dated August 25, 2020

"This letter of rationale is in support of renaming a stretch of the Eglinton West corridor after Ronald "Jimmy" Ashford Wisdom. The Board and members of the Jamaican Canadian Association is pleased to play a role in this important initiative.

Jimmy Wisdom was an integral part in shaping Toronto's Caribbean community and was widely loved across all of Toronto. After a storied career as a musician, Jimmy Wisdom opened Wisdom's Barber Shop & Hairdressing Salon where he worked with his wife Merva for over 50 years. The passion and dedication Jimmy brought to the community will continue to live in the hearts and minds of all those fortunate enough to meet him. It is important to remember and celebrate individuals who contributed significantly to the social, economic and/or political fabric of Toronto. On behalf of the Jamaican Canadian Association, Toronto's Caribbean community, and Toronto as a whole, that 'Jimmy Wisdom Way' be used to represent, celebrate and remember one of the founding fathers of Little Jamaica."

Letter from Wisdom Family – Dated July 6, 2020

"The Wisdom family is thrilled to learn that "Jimmy" Wisdom is being considered to be memorialized in such a prestigious manner.

Jimmy put his heart and soul into his Barber Shop and Beauty Salon to serve his community. He was dedicated to his clients and his work as a highly skilled master barber. He fought tirelessly for his community and the small businesses in his area. For almost 50 years, Wisdom's Barber Shop and Beauty Salon remained the cornerstone in the community because Jimmy, the hard-working man, and his business acquired the deserving respect and admiration of his clients and peers. Jimmy would be so proud to know that his life and work positively impacted so many people because he wanted his existence to make a difference in the lives of others.

The Wisdom family wholly supports this honourable consideration to rename Locksley Ave. to Jimmy Wisdom Way. We are very proud of Jimmy's life and accomplishments. We are humbled and grateful for this thoughtful gesture in his honour."

The name "Jimmy Wisdom Way" was circulated for comment and is acceptable to Toronto Police Service, Toronto Fire Services, Toronto Paramedic Services and Councillor Colle.

Consent was provided by the Wisdom family.

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"

Jimmy Wisdom passed away on November 28, 2019.

Based on the named party's contributions to the Toronto Caribbean community, it is determined that this naming is in compliance Section 3.8.6.

This naming was further reviewed under the provisions of Section 6.1.3 of the Street Naming Policy which states:

6.1.3 Documented support, including but not limited to petitions and support letters, from at least 75 percent of property owners that abut the street;

A letter requesting support and or comments was delivered to the mailbox of each abutting property. There are 18 address points that abut this section of Locksley Avenue however only one of these address points is actually municipally addressed off of Locksley and being 11 Locksley Avenue. Support for this renaming was given by the property owner of 11 Locksley Avenue. Three (3) abutting property owners confirmed their support for the renaming, inclusive of 11 Locksley Avenue. In addition, four (4) local community groups provided support letters as included in this report.

There were no objections or concerns raised by any of the abutting property owners. Although documented support from 75 percent of the abutting property owners was not achieved, due to the abundance of documented support from four (4) local community groups it is hereby recommended that approval of the renaming of Locksley Avenue,

extending between Eglinton Avenue West and Hopewell Avenue to "Jimmy Wisdom Way" be granted.

Naming Policy can be found at <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/street-naming/>

The street is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2020-064.

CONTACT

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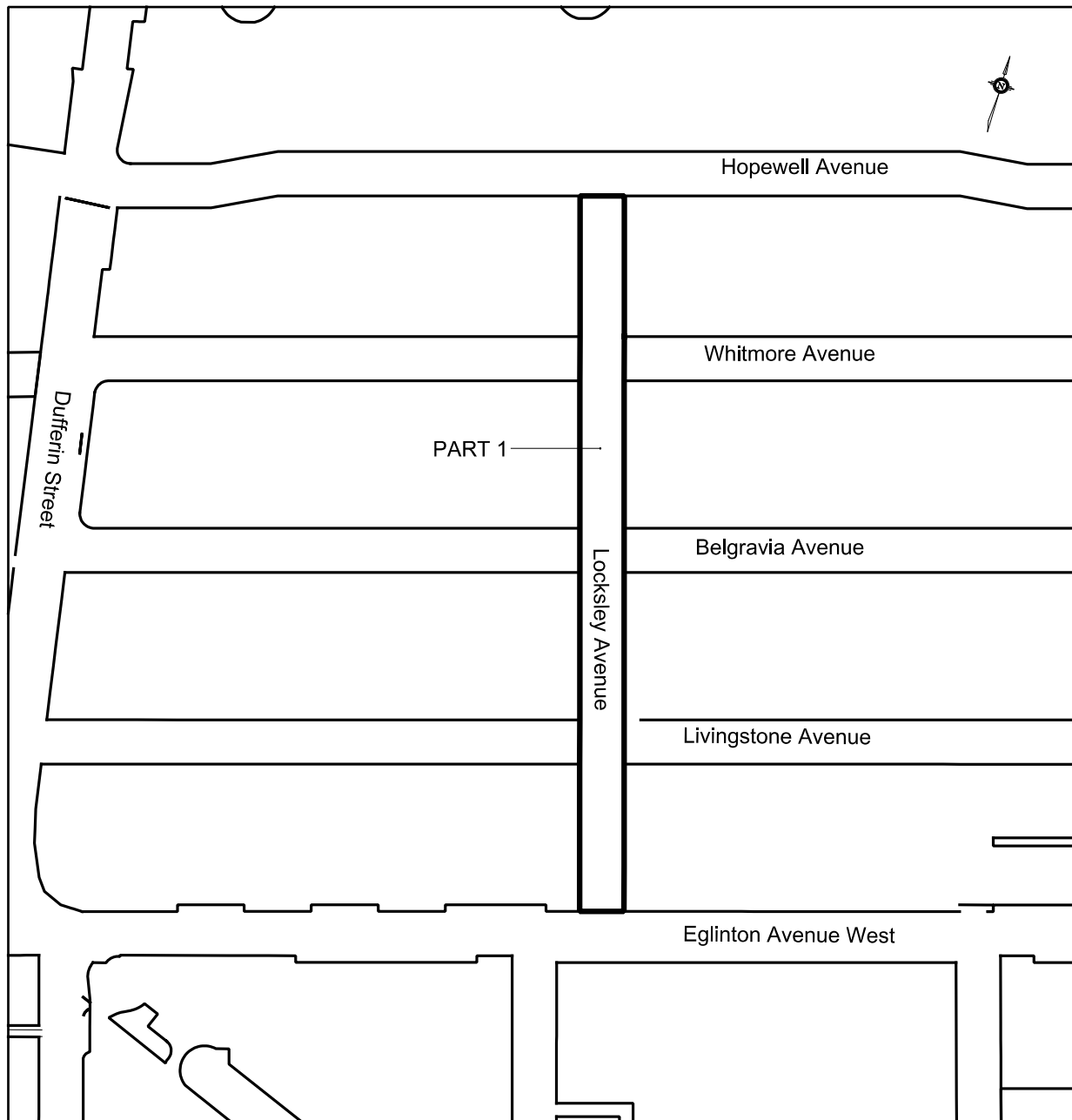
SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENT

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2020-064

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2020-064, showing the location of Locksley Avenue extending between Eglinton Avenue West and Hopewell Avenue.



NOTE:
THIS SKETCH HAS BEEN
COMPILED FROM OFFICE
RECORDS. MEASUREMENTS
ARE APPROXIMATE

CHECK BY ANA MICHALEK
PREPARED BY: DWAYNE PITT

WARD 8 - EGLINTON-LAWRENCE
DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET

RENAMING OF LOCKSLEY AVENUE EXTENDING BETWEEN EGLINTON AVENUE WEST AND HOPEWELL AVENUE

SKETCH No. PS-2020-064