

## **Renaming of a portion of Russell Street extending between St. George Street and Spadina Crescent**

**Date:** February 25, 2020

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

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

**Wards:** 11 University-Rosedale

### **SUMMARY**

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This report recommends approval of the re-naming of a portion of Russell Street extending between St. George Street and Spadina Crescent, as "Ursula Franklin Street"

Community Councils have delegated authority to decide street naming matters which comply with the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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Engineering and Construction Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Approve the name "Ursula Franklin Street" for the renaming of a portion of Russell Street extending between St. George Street and Spadina Crescent.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The cost to install street name signage is approximately \$500 and is included within the Transportation Services Division Operating Budget.

### **DECISION HISTORY**

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This is the first time that this issue is before Community Council.

## COMMENTS

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A request was received from a Senior Fellow of the University of Toronto and friend of the named party, to rename a portion of Russell Street extending between St. George Street and Spadina Crescent, "Ursula Franklin Street" to celebrate the late Dr. Ursula Franklin, a distinguished research physicist and metallurgist in U of T's Faculty of Engineering who taught at the university for more than 40 years, was globally renowned for her writings on the political and social effects of technology and was one of Canada's outstanding feminist and pacifist scholars and advocates.

The applicant has provided the following rationale and background:

### **"Ursula Franklin Street"**

#### **Letter from Huron Sussex Resident's Association, dated January 10, 2020:**

*"During her lifetime and long career at the University of Toronto, Ursula Franklin was a celebrated scientist, professor, feminist, and an activist who worked for peace. Having survived internment in a forced labour camp during World War Two, she came to Canada in 1949 as a postdoctoral student at the University of Toronto, and joined the faculty in 1967. In addition to her ground-breaking work that culminated in the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty signed by 135 countries outlawing nuclear detonations on land, in the atmosphere and in space, Franklin was the first woman professor in the Department of Metallurgy and Materials Science, the first woman to be named University Professor at the U of T, recipient of 25 honorary degrees, and an inductee into the Canadian Science and Engineering Hall of Fame. Upon her death in 2016, U of T President Meric Gertler recognized her many contributions this way: "Ursula Franklin was a U of T and global pioneer -- as a scientist and educator, as an activist, and as a woman. While we mourn her passing, we also celebrate her brilliant legacy of accomplishment and influence. We are very proud and grateful to count her among the most distinguished leaders in the history of the University of Toronto. The honouring of Ursula Franklin by renaming this portion of Russell Street is particularly fitting given that the Department of Engineering at the University of Toronto is on St. George, just south of what is currently known as Russell Street.*

*"The Huron Sussex Residents Organization wishes to see the life and work of Ursula Franklin celebrated and remembered on the campus of the university where she devoted herself to working for peace and social change".*

*"We support the spirit of this renaming proposal for what it represents: a commitment to transforming social conditions, a goal that reflects much of what Ursula Franklin worked for, and which her own life story teaches us".*

#### **Letter from Michael Valpy, Senior Fellow, Massey College, dated November 20, 2019:**

*"Dr. Franklin was a distinguished research physicist and metallurgist in U of T's Faculty of Engineering who taught at the university for more than 40 years. She was globally renowned for her writings on the political and social effects of technology. She was U of*

*T's first woman University Professor — an honorific title recognizing unusual scholarly achievement and pre-eminence in a particular field of knowledge; the number of University Professor appointments does not generally exceed two per cent of the tenured faculty. She was inducted into the Canadian Science and Engineering Hall of Fame. She held honorary degrees from more than 20 universities. She was a CBC Massey Lecturer and one of the first recipients of Massey College's Adrienne Clarkson Laureateship for outstanding achievement in public service. There is also a sculpture honouring her in the quadrangle of Massey College. She was a Companion of the Order of Canada, a member of the Order of Ontario, a recipient of the Award of Merit from the City of Toronto and a recipient of the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Person's Case for advancing the equality of girls and women in Canada. She is truly a fitting person to have a campus street named for her".*

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 children of the named party. The named party passed away in 2016.

Renaming of this portion of Russell Street impacts the following address points:

2 Russell St  
16 Russell St  
17 Russell St  
19 Russell St  
22 Russell St  
25 Russell St  
33 Russell St

All noted addressed points identified are owned by the University of Toronto. The University of Toronto supports this renaming.

The street is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2020-002.

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

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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

## **ATTACHMENT**

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Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2020-002

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2020-002, showing the location of Russell Street between St. George Street and Spadina Crescent Court.

