



G R A N G E

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To: Executive Committee
cc Councillors Layton and Cressy
Re: EX25.1 – Recognition Review Project Update and Response to the Dundas Street Renaming Petition

The Grange Community Association acknowledges the harm done to Indigenous people and Black Communities, and the need to take steps to address such harm. We also believe that in acknowledging the past, any proposed recognition, such as street name changes, needs to be effective and to be embraced by the general public.

We have participated in the consultation process undertaken by staff because Dundas Street is part of the area represented by our association.

During the consultation process, we proposed that a plaqueing program may be the most effective way to proceed. There isn't consensus among our GCA members regarding a change in the name. There is enthusiastic support from many GCA members and qualified support or opposition from others. Thus, in our view, the proposal provided by staff needs fine-tuning.

We recommend the following:

1. Defer consideration of this report to give the community time to review and evaluate its content. This is necessary because the report was released just before a holiday period.
2. Amend recommendation #2 of the City Manager's report so that the composition of the proposed advisory committee is more reflective of those who are affected by the proposed change.
3. Increase the funding allocation to provide support for businesses and residents who will be affected.

We also offer these further comments:

- We support the general principle that names of significant streets and public spaces should reflect positive values. While we support this principle, changing a name in such a way that "eliminates" history does not provide opportunities for lessons about the impact of colonialism. The installation of information plaques along routes and in locations identified for change is a more positive approach.
- One of our members has identified one impact that a name change will have upon their household. Some 76 accounts were identified as requiring a change should this proposal be approved.
- Recommendation #2 in the staff report limits the composition of the advisory committee, yet the same report notes that nearly 97,000 residential addresses and 4,500 businesses will be affected. A guiding principle should be that any significant change should have the support of as many citizens as possible.
- Given the numbers of people and businesses who would be affected by this change, consideration should be given to allowing both names to be used, i.e. the proposed new name and the previous name.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Dr. Ralph J Daley
President
Grange Community Association, Inc.