

## Attachment 2

# City of Toronto Street Naming Policy

Substantive changes to current version of policy are underlined for reference.

## 1. Policy Statement

Street names are critical for municipal addressing and emergency response purposes. This policy establishes criteria to name or rename a Street or assign a Ceremonial Name to a Street.

## 2. Definitions

- 2.1 *Ceremonial Name* is a secondary name assigned to a Street, in honour of an individual, event or an organization that has made a significant and exceptional positive contribution to Toronto, Ontario or Canada. A Ceremonial Name does not replace the official name.
- 2.2 *City* refers to the City of Toronto.
- 2.3 *City-wide Significance* refers to having a significant social or cultural impact for residents in more than one Community Council area.
- 2.4 *Commemorative Name* is a name assigned to a Street to commemorate one or more individuals, communities, organizations, events, or ideas of significance to Toronto, Ontario or Canada.
- 2.5 *Draft Plan of Subdivision* is a document that shows the surveyed boundaries, location, size, and Streets of a proposed subdivision.
- 2.6 *Duplicate* refers to Street names that are identical, not including the Street suffix.
- 2.7 *Division Head of Engineering & Construction Services* means the Executive Director of Engineering & Construction Services or their designate.
- 2.8 *Economic Development & Culture* refers to the City of Toronto's Economic Development and Culture Division or its successor.
- 2.9 *Engineering & Construction Services* refers to the City of Toronto's Engineering & Construction Services Division or its successor.
- 2.10 *First Responders* refers to Toronto Fire Services, Toronto Police Service, and Toronto Paramedic Services.
- 2.11 *Reference Plan* refers to a plan deposited in the local Land Registry Office and is a graphic representation of descriptions of land, as well as representations of divisions of land under the *Planning Act*.

- 2.12 *Similar Sounding* refers to Street names that sound similar in their entirety, not including the Street suffix.
- 2.13 *Street* is any existing or proposed public or private Street, lane, or walkway within the boundaries of the City of Toronto.
- 2.14 *Street Suffix* refers to words that follow a Street name and usually indicate the type of Street configuration and or Street direction.
- 2.15 *Unnamed Street* refers to any Street or a proposed Street on a Reference Plan without an official name and not on a draft plan of a subdivision.

### **3. Criteria for Naming or Renaming a Street or Assigning a Ceremonial Name to a Street**

- 3.1 The City will consider proposals for Street naming but is under no obligation to accept a proposal to name, or rename a Street, or assign a Ceremonial Name to a Street.
- 3.2 Street names, including ceremonial Street names, should portray a strong positive image, and have historical, cultural, Indigenous or social significance to the community, Toronto, Ontario or Canada.
- 3.3 Proposals for new Ceremonial names or new Street names that commemorate one or more individuals, communities, organizations, events, or ideas of significance to Toronto, Ontario or Canada, must demonstrate alignment with the Guiding Principles for Commemoration.
- 3.4 Proposed names in an Indigenous language or a Commemorative Name recognizing an Indigenous individual, organization, event or concept will require consultation with Indigenous communities and adherence to appropriate Indigenous practices or protocols.
- 3.5 Street names shall not impair the ability of First Responders to respond to emergencies or impair the City's ability to deliver services.
- 3.6 Streets that have been named, renamed, or assigned a Ceremonial Name or whose names have been reviewed within the previous ten years will generally not be renamed or reviewed.
- 3.7 Assigning a Ceremonial Name to a Street will be considered before renaming a Street.
- 3.8 Suffixes for Street names are assigned by Engineering & Construction Services to ensure the appropriate suffix is used to describe the type, function, length and configuration of the Street.
- 3.9 All costs to the City involved in naming or renaming a private Street shall be the responsibility of the applicant.

- 3.10 Street names, including Ceremonial Names, shall not:
- 3.10.1 Result in, or be perceived to confer, any competitive advantage, benefit or preferential treatment or advertisement to the named party, or a product, service or a particular business;
  - 3.10.2 Be or be perceived to be discriminatory of race, colour, ethnic origin, gender identity or expression, sex, sexual orientation, creed, political affiliation, disability or other social factors;
  - 3.10.3 Result in inappropriate abbreviations or acronyms;
  - 3.10.4 Duplicate or be similar sounding to an existing Street name;
  - 3.10.5 Place the City in conflict with any agreements established in the acquisition or management of the Street; and
  - 3.10.6 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.
- 3.11 Street signs must comply with the Corporate Identity Program and the physical location of the sign shall be determined by the City.
- 3.12 Naming or renaming a Street, or assigning a Ceremonial Name to a Street, on behalf of an individual, event, or an organization requires the written consent of the named party or the named party's representative.
- 3.12.1 In circumstances where consent has not been received, the City, in the absence of any refusal to provide consent or legal concerns, may approve the name if it is satisfied that reasonable efforts have been made to obtain consent.

#### **4. Naming Streets on Draft Plans of Subdivisions**

- 4.1 A proposal to name Streets on a Draft Plan of Subdivision is to be made using the Street Naming Application through Engineering & Construction Services and at minimum is to include:
- 4.1.1 The proposed Street names, including background information on the names;
  - 4.1.2 A copy of the draft plan of a subdivision;
  - 4.1.3 Description of alignment with the Guiding Principles for Commemoration, if the proposed name is a Commemorative Name; and

- 4.1.4. Proposed names in an Indigenous language or a Commemorative Name recognizing an Indigenous individual, organization, event or concept will require consultation with Indigenous communities and adherence to appropriate Indigenous practices or protocols.
- 4.2 The Division Head of Engineering & Construction Services will assess proposed Street names for draft plans of subdivisions in accordance with this Policy and consult with the Ward Councillor prior to granting approval.
- 4.2.1 If the proposed Street name is a Commemorative Name, Engineering & Construction Services will consult with Economic Development & Culture to confirm that the proposed name is in alignment with the Guiding Principles for Commemoration.
- 4.3 In the event that the Ward Councillor does not support the proposed name(s), the relevant Community Council, (or City Council if it affects more than one Community Council or has City-wide Significance), will consider the proposed name(s).

## **5. Naming an Unnamed Street**

- 5.1 A proposal to name an Unnamed Street is to be made using the Street Naming Application through Engineering & Construction Services and at minimum is to include:
- 5.1.1 The proposed name;
- 5.1.2 Rationale for naming the Street, including alignment with the Guiding Principles for Commemoration if the proposed name is a commemorative name;
- 5.1.3 Documented support for the proposed name, including support from property owners/ residents who directly about the Unnamed Street and local community members and/or organizations;
- 5.1.4 A map or an illustration, including major intersections of the unnamed Street; and
- 5.1.5 Proposed names in an Indigenous language or a Commemorative Name recognizing an Indigenous individual, organization, event or concept will require consultation with Indigenous communities and adherence to appropriate Indigenous practices or protocols.
- 5.2 If the proposed name complies with this Policy, the City shall give public notice on its intention to name the Street including the proposed name.
- 5.3 Community Council, (or City Council if it affects more than one Community Council or, in the opinion of the City Manager, has City-wide Significance), shall consider the proposed name.

5.4 If the proposed name does not comply with the Policy, the Division Head of Engineering & Construction Services will report to Community Council.

## **6. Renaming City Streets**

6.1 A proposal to rename a Street is to be made using the Street Naming Application through Engineering & Construction Services and at minimum is to include:

6.1.1 Rationale for changing the name and significance of the proposed name, including alignment with the Guiding Principles for Commemoration if the proposed name is a Commemorative Name;

6.1.2 Relevance of the proposed name to the Street;

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;

6.1.4 A map or an illustration, including major intersections of the Street to be renamed; and

6.1.5 Proposed names in an Indigenous language or a Commemorative Name recognizing an Indigenous individual, organization, event or concept will require consultation with Indigenous communities and adherence to appropriate Indigenous practices or protocols.

6.2 If the proposed name complies with this Policy, the City will provide public notice on its intention to rename an existing Street and the proposed name.

6.3 The relevant Community Council, (or City Council if it affects more than one Community Council or, in the opinion of the City Manager, has City-wide Significance), shall consider the proposed name.

6.4 If the proposed name does not comply with the Policy, the Division Head of Engineering & Construction Services will report to Community Council.

## **7. Assigning a Ceremonial Name to a City Street**

7.1 A proposal to assign a Ceremonial Name to a Street is to be made using the Ceremonial Street Naming Application through Economic Development & Culture and at minimum is to include:

7.1.1 The Street proposed for the Ceremonial Name;

7.1.2 Rationale and significance of the proposed name, including alignment with the Guiding Principles for Commemoration;

7.1.3 Relevance of the proposed name to the Street, community and City;

- 7.1.4 Documented support from the local community, including but not limited to petitions and support letters;
  - 7.1.5 A map or an illustration, including major intersections of the Street; and
  - 7.1.6 Proposed Ceremonial Street names that in an Indigenous language or recognize an Indigenous individual, organization, event or concept will require consultation with Indigenous communities and adherence to appropriate Indigenous practices or protocols.
- 7.2 The proposed name will be considered by the relevant Community Council, (or City Council if it affects more than one Community Council or, in the opinion of the City Manager, has City-wide significance).
  - 7.3 In circumstances, where a specific Street or location is not identified, Economic Development & Culture will provide Street location options in a report to Community Council (or City Council if it affects more than one Community Council or, in the opinion of the City Manager, has City-wide significance).

## **8. Requests to Review Existing Commemorative Street Names**

- 8.1 The City will consider requests to review an existing Commemorative Name of a City Street, including a Ceremonial Name, where the name:
  - 8.1.1 Refers to current or historic persons known for their discriminatory views and actions, including committing or perpetuating acts of racism or violence against Indigenous Peoples, Black communities and/or equity-deserving groups;
  - 8.1.2 Includes derogatory terms that might represent or be linked with discriminatory views and actions;
  - 8.1.3 Negatively represents or appropriates the culture of Indigenous Peoples, Black communities or equity-deserving groups;
  - 8.1.4 Is inconsistent with City By-laws or policies including the City of Toronto Human Rights and Anti-Harassment / Discrimination Policy; and/or
  - 8.1.5 Brings the City of Toronto into disrepute.
- 8.2. Requests from the public to review the name of a Street must be made using the City Street Name Review Application process through Economic Development & Culture and at minimum is to include:
  - 8.2.1 The name of the Street;
  - 8.2.2 Rationale for reviewing the Street name based on criteria outlined in Section 8.1 of this Policy and the City's Guiding Principles for Commemoration; and

- 8.2.3 Documented support from the community, including but not limited to petitions and support letters.
- 8.3 Economic Development and Culture, working with other Divisions as appropriate and in consultation with the Ward Councillor(s), will review the request and recommend one of the following responses:
  - 8.3.1 Recommend to City Council that the Street be renamed;
  - 8.3.2 Install signage, plaques or other interpretive materials to provide information to the public about the cultural and/or historical context of the Street name;
  - 8.3.3 Conclude that no action is required; or
  - 8.3.4 Identify another action supported by residents.
- 8.4 Economic Development and Culture may request additional information from the applicant and/or conduct additional research and/or public consultations to determine the appropriate response to the request.
- 8.5 Authority to rename a Street for any of the reasons outlined in Section 8.1 of this Policy must be sought from City Council.
  - 8.5.1 City Council may waive Section 6.1.3 of this Policy requiring that 75% of property owners on the Street to agree to the name change if Council deems that the criteria in Section 8.1 of this Policy have been met.

## **9. Related City By-laws and Policies**

- 9.1 City of Toronto Guiding Principles for Commemoration
- 9.2 [Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 162, Notice, Public](#)
- 9.3 [Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 27, Council Procedures](#)
- 9.4 [City of Toronto Individual and Corporate Naming Rights Policy](#)
- 9.5 [Corporate Identity Program](#)