

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM47.92	ACTION			Ward: 16
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Ceremonial Street Dedication for "Aga Khan Boulevard" - by Mayor John Tory, seconded by Deputy Mayor Denzil Minnan-Wong

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.
 * This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate*

Recommendations

Mayor John Tory, seconded by Deputy Mayor Denzil Minnan-Wong, recommends that:

1. City Council assign the ceremonial name "Aga Khan Boulevard" to Wynford Drive between Don Mills Road and the east side of the Don Valley Parkway overpass.
2. City Council authorize the General Manager, Transportation Services, to alter the street name signs on Wynford Drive from Don Mills Road to the east side of the Don Valley Parkway overpass to reflect both the official street name and the ceremonial name "Aga Khan Boulevard".

Summary

This Motion recommends assigning the ceremonial name "Aga Khan Boulevard" to the portion of Wynford Drive between Don Mills Road and the east side of the Don Valley Parkway overpass. This ceremonial dedication will commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Aga Khan's accession as the 49th hereditary Imam of Shia Ismaili Muslims – as recognized by Imamat Day on July 11, 2022 – and 50 years since the Ismaili community settled in Canada.

Throughout his Imamat, the Aga Khan has worked to improve the lives of all people, regardless of their birthplace, background, or religious beliefs, through global charitable efforts focusing on health care, education, financial inclusion and infrastructure development. In Toronto, the Aga Khan has made generous contributions to celebrate the culture and heritage of the Ismaili community, and their deep roots in the City. In 2014, he opened the Aga Khan Museum, the only museum in North America dedicated to Islamic arts, housing 1,200 works of art and artifacts assembled by the Aga Khan; and the Ismaili Centre, a place of congregation, prayer, and friendship for the Ismaili community; and the Aga Khan Park which is a contribution to Toronto's vibrant pluralism and which showcases Canada's rich example of pluralism in action. These landmark institutions on Wynford Drive are not only a gathering place for the community and Torontonians at large, but also an attraction for visitors to the City.

City staff have reviewed this proposal and confirmed that its meets the requirements of the City of Toronto Street Naming Policy. Written consent has been obtained from a representative of the Aga Khan, and letters of support have been received from property owners and institutions

along Wynford Drive, including the Aga Khan Museum, the Ismaili Council of Canada, Scotiabank, and Brookfield Properties. The proposal also supports the objectives of the new City of Toronto Commemorative Framework, which is currently before City Council for consideration (Item EX34.6). In particular, the proposed ceremonial dedication will commemorate the Aga Khan's contributions to Toronto, as well as the culture of the Ismaili community.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM47.92