

Naming of an existing Public Lane west of Shaw Street extending between Dundas Street West and Halton Street

Date: March 23, 2023

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering & Construction Services
General Manager, Economic Development & Culture

Wards: Ward 10 – Spadina- Fort York

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the name "Rocco Mandalfino Lane" be approved to identify an existing public lane located west of Shaw Street extending between Dundas Street West and Halton Street.

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

This naming proposal is in alignment with the objectives of the [Guiding Principles](#) for Commemoration in the Public Realm.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Engineering & Construction Services and Economic Development & Culture recommend that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Approve the name "Rocco Mandalfino Lane" for an existing public lane located west of Shaw Street extending between Dundas Street West and Halton Street.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

DECISION HISTORY

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

COMMENTS

An application was received on November 11, 2020, from a resident, requesting to name the existing public lane located west of Shaw Street extending between Dundas Street West and Halton Street as "Rocco Mandalfino Lane", honouring a local resident and home builder in the Trinity Bellwoods Community.

The following background and rationale provided by the applicant:

"Rocco Mandalfino"

"Rocco Mandalfino is the grandfather of my wife, Anne Aziz (maiden name Mandalfino). Rocco was an Italian immigrant who settled in the Trinity Bellwoods area in the early part of the last Century.

Rocco was a decorated veteran of the First World War who came to Canada following that war, looking to provide a better life for his family, so that they would be able to enjoy the freedoms that all Canadians enjoy with a debt of gratitude to those who fought in the many wars of the past centuries.

After settling in the Trinity Bellwoods area, Rocco built his family a home on Bellwoods Avenue and then, like many other hard-working immigrants that helped make Toronto what it is today, became a successful, albeit small, home builder who built many of the homes that still stand in the Trinity Bellwoods community. My wife's father, as well as my wife, were born and raised in the home that Rocco built, both vibrant threads in the fabric of the Trinity Bellwoods community.

Now one of the trendy neighbourhoods of Toronto, Trinity Bellwoods has its roots in the Italian and Portuguese communities that settled here following the turn of the 20th Century. Rocco, like many of these immigrants, brought the skills of his trade and used those to help create the community that so many enjoy today.

The Lane running north/south between Dundas and Halton Streets, immediately west of Shaw Street, remains unnamed. It is immediately adjacent to our home at 254 Shaw Street and is used by the residents of Shaw street, between Dundas and Halton Streets, to access their garages. Naming this lane has many benefits, as you know. It helps create a better sense of place and enables police and emergency responders to locate it in the event of an emergency.

Naming the lane in honour of Rocco Mandalfino would be a fitting tribute not only to Rocco, but to the many Italian and Portuguese skilled labourers who came to Canada, and specifically Toronto, looking for a better life, and in that process provided one to the thousands of families who now enjoy the neighbourhood of Little Italy and Little Portugal."

Rocco Mandalfino Historical Research

There are four alternate spellings of the name Mandalfino in the survey records. (Mandalfine, Mondalfino, Maldlafino, and Mandalfind).

Rocco Mandalfino (1899 –1979) was born in Italy, the child of Antonio Mandalfino and Caterina Le Castro. He served in the Italian Army during the Great War. He was awarded the 1968 World War I Gold medal commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Great War, and in 1971 was made a Cavaliere dell'Ordine di Vittorio Veneto (Knight of the Order of Vittorio Veneto) by the Republic of Italy for his war service.

He sailed from Palermo, aboard the SS DANTE ALIGHIERI, arriving at Ellis Island (New York City, USA) on 18 August 1923, at 24 years of age. Unmarried. A Roman Catholic. Intended occupation, a labourer.

In 1928 Rocco appears in the Toronto City Directory for the first time. First residence; 23 Denison Avenue. Over the next few years, he moves twice more (1360 St. Clair Avenue West and 47 McKay Avenue).

He was employed as a shoemaker at American Shoe Repair in 1930-31. He resides at 77 Bellwoods Avenue, Toronto, from 1933 until his passing in 1979.

He is listed as working as a baker until 1960 (Canadian Bakery, Woman's Bakery, Canada Bread Company, Campi Brothers, Veniza Bakery), as a guard for Security and Investigation Services until 1969.

He was known as The Builder, (see applicant submission.)

Complete Historical Research Report is available upon request.

The proposed name has been circulated for comment and is acceptable to Toronto Police Service, Toronto Fire Services, and Toronto Paramedic Services.

Councillor Ausma Malik, Ward 10 Spadina-Fort York, supports this naming.

Rocco Mandalfino passed away on November 26, 1979.
Consent was provided by Anne Aziz, granddaughter of the named party.

Community support was demonstrated with letters or support from property owners/residents who directly abut the lane.

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

The lane is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2023-007.

CONTACT

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Patrick Tobin, General Manager, Economic Development & Culture

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2023-007

Showing the location of an existing public lane west of Shaw Street extending between Dundas Street West and Halton Street.

