

Naming of an existing Public Lane North of Queen Street East, extending between Balsam Avenue and Spruce Hill Road

Date: October 7, 2024

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

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

Wards: Ward 19 - Beaches - East York

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the name "Sarah McComb Lane" be approved to identify an existing public lane located North of Queen Street East, extending between Balsam Avenue and Spruce Hill Road.

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 and Construction Services and the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture recommend that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Approve the name "Sarah McComb Lane" for an existing public lane located North of Queen Street East, extending between Balsam Avenue and Spruce Hill Road.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost to install street name signage is approximately \$500 and is included within the Transportation Services Division's 2024 Operating Budget.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the information as presented in the Financial Impact section.

DECISION HISTORY

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

COMMENTS

At its meeting on July 19, 2022, City Council adopted the City of Toronto Commemorative Framework and approved revisions to the Street Naming Policy. <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.EX34.6>

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

An application was received on November 28, 2021, requesting to name the existing public lane located North of Queen Street East, extending between Balsam Avenue and Spruce Hill Road, as "Sarah McComb Lane". The concerned lane is shown in Attachment 1.

The applicant provided the following background and rationale:

"Sarah McComb Lane"

"The city should assign this laneway the name above as it commemorates an outstanding and beloved woman, mother, partner, local community member and former teacher of the school that the laneway abuts who was taken from our community too young from cancer and whom was an asset to our community and the school beside it in particular.

The name has no specific relation to Toronto, Ontario or Canada other than paying tribute to the quality of citizen that we should all aspire to be and hold up as an example.

The proposed name is not directly significant to the Black community; however, Sarah was raised in a mixed race and immigrant family. Sarah's father Errol Superville was raised in Trinidad and then came to Canada via Ireland where he studied medicine. He became a very well-respected doctor at St. Michael's hospital in Toronto. Sarah's mother Patricia was born and raised in the UK. The proposed name is directly significant however to woman and mothers who continue to be an underserved and equity deserving group.

Sarah was a dear friend of mine and many in the Beaches community for over 25 years. The school to the north of the laneway, as previously mentioned is St. Denis Catholic School, which is the school that all four of Sarah's children attended and where Sarah devoted many years to volunteer service within the school and finally was a beloved teacher at for many years. The school admin as well as many, many parents signed the petition as well as all of the homes, apartment buildings and businesses that surround

the laneway. There wasn't one objection to this proposal from the immediate neighbors or anyone else in the community."

Historical Research on the Sarah McComb Lane

Sarah McComb Lane will commemorate the life of a beloved resident of The Beaches neighbourhood and the St. Denis Catholic School community. Sarah McComb lived in The Beaches for more than 25 years, raising her children and making lasting connections throughout the neighbourhood. She connected with her community through teaching, volunteering, sports, and social gatherings.

A committed volunteer throughout her life, Ms. McComb was heavily involved at St. Denis Catholic School, which her four children attended. Her volunteer activities included coaching swimming, starting the annual "Art of Giving" Christmas craft fair that raised money for under privileged schools in Toronto, and leading a project to teach old schoolyard games to the students such as yogi rope, skipping games, hopscotch, and hand ball. Ms. McComb's commitment to the school was further demonstrated when she went to Teacher's College and later became a highly regarded supply teacher.

While in Teacher's College, Sarah McComb received a breast cancer diagnosis in 2010. Throughout her cancer battle, Ms. McComb showed great strength. Her friends knew her as "the eternal optimist. She always tried to remain positive regardless of any situation she found herself in and her cancer journey was no different." Part of Ms. McComb's enduring legacy is the "Rock with Love" annual fundraising concert started by her family in 2022. The concerts support the Sarah McComb Award for Cancer Research that is awarded through the Angels Den competition, a yearly showcase of innovative research taking place at St. Michael's Hospital, hosted by St. Michael's Foundation. The concerts provide her community with the opportunity to remember Sarah McComb's friendship and community involvement while making a meaningful contribution to breast cancer research in Toronto.

Sarah McComb passed away on September 19, 2021.

A 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 Brad Bradford, Ward 19 Beaches-East York, supports this naming.

Consent was provided by Weston McComb, the spouse of the commemorated party.

Community support was demonstrated with a petition of signatures from the local community.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Avi Bachar, P. Eng., Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services

CONTACT

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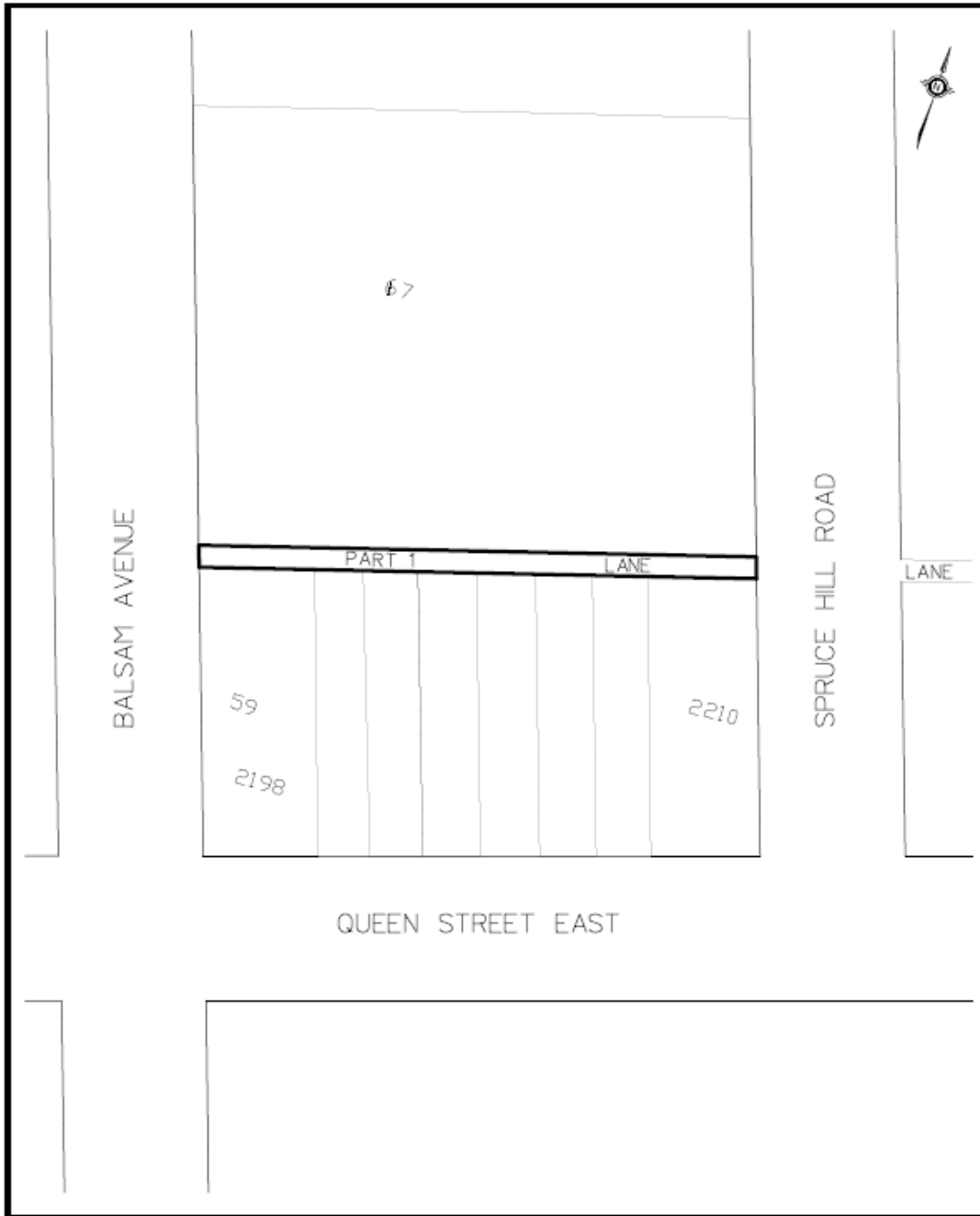
SIGNATURE


Patrick Tobin, General Manager
Economic Development & Culture

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Sketch No. PS-2024-020

Attachment 1 - Sketch No. PS-2024-020, showing the location of an existing public lane located North of Queen Street East, extending between Balsam Avenue and Spruce Hill Road.



 <p>ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION SERVICES ENGINEERING SUPPORT SERVICES LAND & PROPERTY SURVEYS</p>	<p>PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET</p> <p>NAMING OF A PUBLIC LANE LOCATED NORTH OF QUEEN STREET EAST, EXTENDING BETWEEN BALSAM AVENUE AND SPRUCE HILL ROAD.</p>	
	<p>NOTE: THIS SKETCH HAS BEEN COMPILED FROM OFFICE RECORDS. MEASUREMENTS ARE APPROXIMATE</p>	
	<p>CHECKED BY: ANA MICHALEK PREPARED BY: S. LOMBARDO</p>	<p>WARD 19 - BEACHES-EAST YORK DATE: SEPTEMBER 19, 2024</p>