

Naming of the existing Public Lanes South of Queen Street West, extending between Augusta Avenue to Spadina Avenue

Date: March 17, 2025

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services

Wards: Ward 10 - Spadina - Fort York

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the name "Graffiti Alley" be approved to identify the existing public lanes located south of Queen Street West, extending between Augusta Avenue to Spadina Avenue

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/>

RECOMMENDATIONS

Engineering and Construction Services recommends that Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Approve the name "Graffiti Alley" for the existing public lanes located south of Queen Street West, extending between Augusta Avenue to Spadina Avenue

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications to the City. The cost of lane name signage would have been absorbed in Transportation Services Operating Budget at the time of installation in 2017.

DECISION HISTORY

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

COMMENTS

An application was received on October 11, 2024, requesting to formalize the name, “Graffiti Alley” which is currently in use. The name, ‘Graffiti Alley’, once formally approved will identify the existing public lanes located south of Queen Street West, extending between Augusta Avenue to Spadina Avenue. This name honours the lanes which have been a hotspot for various types of graffiti art since the 1980’s.

The following background and rationale provided by the applicant:

Graffiti Alley

“Since the 1980s/1990s, Graffiti Alley has been a globally renown hotspot for urban street art. In the 2000s, the City of Toronto posted signage identifying the name of this famous laneway.”

For further information, the following is a link to a City News interview regarding the lanes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQRBSWa5UBs>

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.

A letter of support from the Queen Street West BIA was received on March 7, 2025: *“We fully support this effort and encourage the city council to approve the official naming of Graffiti Alley”.*

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

The lanes are shown as PART 1 and PART 2 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2025-005.

CONTACT

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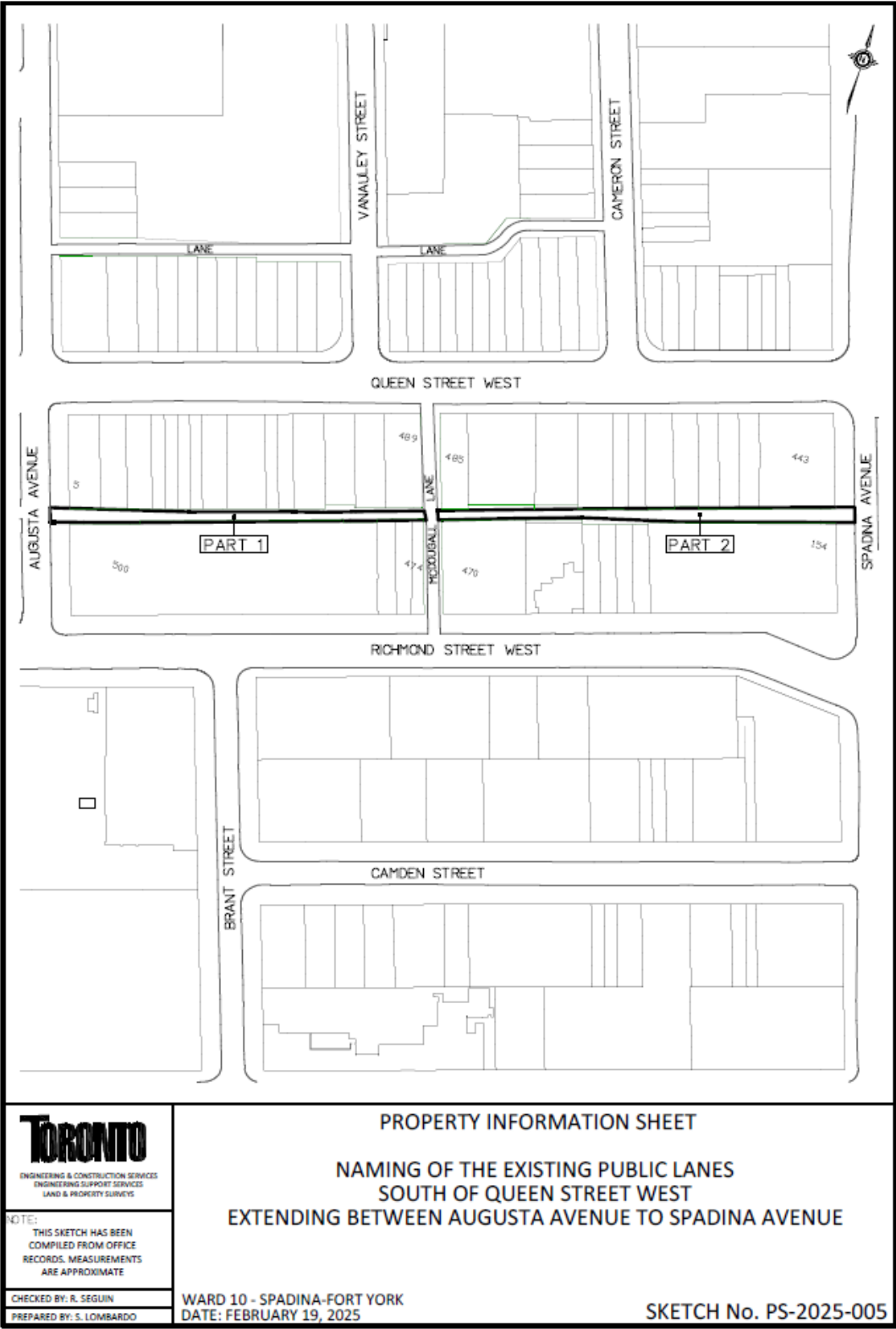
SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Sketch No. PS-2025-005

Attachment 1 - Sketch No. PS-2025-005, showing the location of existing public lanes located south of Queen Street West, extending between Augusta Avenue to Spadina



Avenue