

Naming of a Proposed Private Street Within the Alexandra Park Revitalization Area

Date: January 30, 2026

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

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

Wards: Ward 10 - Spadina - Fort York

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the name "Bob Ellis Way" be approved to identify a proposed private street located within the Alexandra Park Revitalization Area.

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

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

1. Approve the name "Bob Ellis Way" for a proposed private street located within the Alexandra Park Revitalization Area, shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2025-053
2. Request the applicant to pay the costs, estimated to be \$600.00, for the fabrication and installation of the street name signage; and
3. Request the owner and successors of the subject lands to maintain, at their own expense, the street name signage installed under Recommendation 1 of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications to the City resulting from the adoption of this report. The estimated cost of \$600.00 for the street name signage is to be paid by the applicant.

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.

A complete application was finalized on September 12, 2025, requesting to name a proposed private street located within the Alexandra Park Revitalization Area, as “Bob Ellis Way” honouring Edward Robert Ellis, a beloved community leader and influential role model of the community, especially the youth in Alexandra Park.

The following background and rationale provided by the applicant:

Bob Ellis

"Bob Ellis" relates to the City of Toronto as a result of the multi-generational impact that he has had on Alexandra Park residents and other communities through his impact as a community leader for over 20 years. His values and teachings continue to carry on through all the individual lives he has influenced. Edward's influence is exemplified by his mentorship and development of the innovative and impactful Executive Directors of the Alexandra Park Community Centre and the Scadding Court Community Centre, which are key pillars for supporting individuals and developing communities within the City of Toronto.

The name "Bob Ellis" is significant to Black communities and equity-deserving groups, such as racialized people, newcomers, youth, women, low-income and numerous other groups. The significance of "Bob Ellis" is a result of his working in low-income racialized communities and by Edward being was employed for many years as a youth service worker/supervisor at St. Christopher House (now West Neighbourhood House), where

he coached lacrosse, basketball and other activities. In addition to this, Edward worked for Family Services and George Brown College. He completed his work career as an employment counsellor at the YWCA, helping many people, especially newcomers to Canada, with their career goals and job searches.

Bob Ellis Historical Research

An application has been submitted to name a newly created street, located east of Augusta Avenue, south of Grange Avenue and north of 91 Augusta, in honour of Edward Robert “Bob” Ellis. The proposed street name is “Bob Ellis.” The submission includes a biography, letters of support, and documentation of community engagement undertaken to demonstrate support for the proposed name.

As outlined by the applicant and verified through staff research, Edward Robert “Bob” Ellis (1940–2022) was a Black community leader with Caribbean roots and a prominent figure in the Alexandra Park neighbourhood. Throughout his career, Ellis championed low-income and equity-deserving communities, including Black and racialized residents, newcomers, youth, women, and survivors of domestic violence, primarily through his work at St. Christopher House (now West Neighbourhood House). St. Christopher House, Canada’s first settlement house, provided physical and mental health support and skills training to community members. Ellis began his career there as a youth service worker, coaching lacrosse, basketball, and other recreational activities that fostered inclusion and community development. He later became Director of the Neighbourhood House in Alexandra Park, overseeing a range of support programs. Ellis also contributed to the vibrant music culture fostered at St. Christopher House by hosting and performing in annual jazz concerts and as a member of the doo-wop group Take Three Plus One.

Following his retirement from St. Christopher House, Ellis worked with Family Services Toronto and George Brown College, concluding his career as an employment counsellor at the YWCA, where he supported numerous individuals, particularly newcomers to Canada, in achieving their career goals and securing meaningful employment. In 2025, West Neighbourhood House honoured his legacy by awarding scholarships in his name to two equity-deserving youth pursuing post-secondary studies in community development, social services, social work, physical education, or sports/recreation programs.

The applicant, Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC), conducted a series of community engagements activities to gather suggested names for the new street created as part of its redevelopment project. These activities included block parties, markets, and targeted group engagements; each providing an opportunity for open name submissions. “Bob Ellis” received 34 of the 138 total suggestions. TCHC undertook this process to help preserve neighbourhood history throughout the redevelopment. The application also includes letters of support from Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik (Ward 10, Spadina–Fort York) and Alexandra Park Alumni.

In summary, as outlined in the application and confirmed through City staff research, Bob Ellis made significant contributions to the well-being of the Alexandra Park community. Through his leadership and mentorship, Ellis fostered lasting community

relationships and supported the success of many youth, newcomers, and other community members.

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.

Bob Ellis passed away on December 18, 2022.

Consent was provided by Estelle Amaron, wife of the named party.

Community support was demonstrated through the results of multiple outreach and community engagement activities.

The street is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2025-053.

CONTACT

Tony Rodrigues, Manager, Land and Property Surveys, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services, Telephone: 416-396-7140,
Email: Tony.F.Rodrigues@toronto.ca

Karen Carter, Director, Museums & Heritage Services, Telephone: 416-392-9135,
Email: Karen.Carter@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

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

Patrick Tobin, General Manager, Economic Development & Culture

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2025-053

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2025-053, showing the location of a proposed private street located within the Alexandra Park Revitalization Area.

