

Naming of a Public Lane West of Grace Street, extending between Harbord Street and North of College Street

Date: April 13, 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 11 – University-Rosedale

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the name "Joe Pantalone Lane" be approved to identify an existing public lane located west of Grace Street, extending between Harbord Street and north of College 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

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

1. Approve the name "Joe Pantalone Lane" for an existing public lane located west of Grace Street, extending between Harbord Street and north of College Street.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost to install street name signage is approximately \$600.00 and is included within the Transportation Services Division's approved 2026 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 October 23, 2020, via former Ward Councillor Mike Layton's office, on behalf of a resident, requesting to name the existing public lane located west of Grace Street, extending between Harbord Street and north of College Street as "Joe Pantalone Lane", honouring a local resident and former Toronto City Councillor.

An updated application package was subsequently received by the resident on May 8, 2024.

The following background and rationale provided by the applicant:

"Joe Pantalone"

"The old adage - save for the First Nations people, everybody in Toronto came from somewhere else - certainly applies to Joe Pantalone.

Joe Pantalone immigrated to Toronto at age thirteen, speaking two words of English.

Like many who came to Toronto in 1965, his family of nine shared a house with relatives in what is now known as Little Italy (on Beatrice Street where Joe still resides).

His father, once a share cropper in Sicily, was a "pick and shovel" man who helped build Toronto's subway system, while his mother was a seamstress. Joe and his siblings all developed careers in service - politics, health care, education, and the trades.

Joe laid down deep roots in the Little Italy community in Toronto. At age sixteen, he was elected Student Council President at Harbord Collegiate, and he later earned a degree in Geography from the University of Toronto. In 1980, at age twenty-eight- a mere fifteen years after arriving in the City - he was elected as the youngest member of Toronto City Council, consciously bringing a progressive community-based sense to municipal politics. Joe Pantalone worked hard to ensure that municipal government succeeded, because when government works well, it works well for all people. As one

local standing testament to this belief, he successfully led the campaign to build the College/Shaw Public Library which saw its opening in 1984.

Joe Pantalone served as Alderman, Metro Councillor, and Toronto Councillor from 1980 to 2010, and as Toronto's Official Deputy Mayor from 2003 to 2010.

Joe Pantalone, as Chair of the then City's Planning and Development Committee (1998-2000), led the approval of Toronto's first amalgamated Official Plan which substantially remains the vision guiding Toronto's present growth. He was not only renowned for his commitment to diverse communities, but also for his impressive record in helping to build a beautiful, green and safe city. As Chair of Exhibition Place from 1995 to 2010, he is credited with championing the transformation of this faltering waterfront venue into a sports (BMO Field), environmental, heritage and festival showcase. As Toronto's Tree Advocate, hundreds of thousands of trees were planted, a Private Tree Protection By-Law implemented, the Ravine Protection By-Law was expanded and disparate tree policies were updated and expanded Toronto-wide. Joe also championed the first Municipal Green Roof By-law in North America with positive policies and practices established as part of Toronto's environmental successes through his Chairing of the Roundtable on the Environment (2003-2006).

Among other achievements, Joe successfully implemented many city initiatives by chairing and driving numerous Steering Committees, including the City of Toronto 175th Anniversary Celebration, the War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration include the Fort York Visitor Centre, HTO Park in Harbourfront, the National Trade Centre and Music Building Restoration alongside Sam "The Record Man" Sniderman.

Joe Pantalone came from somewhere else, and visionary and dedicated efforts enrich the City of Toronto to this day."

Joe Pantalone Research and Review

The Economic Development and Culture Division (EDC) has reviewed the application to name the public lane located west of Grace Street, extending between Harbord Street and College Street in honour of Joe Pantalone. The proposed commemorative name is "Joe Pantalone Lane." The following summarizes EDC's research and review of the proposed name, undertaken in accordance with the City's Guiding Principles for Commemoration.

Joe Pantalone (born 1952) is a former City of Toronto Deputy Mayor and City Councillor, representing the Trinity-Spadina area from 1980 until his retirement in 2010. Councillor Pantalone immigrated to Toronto with his family in 1965, settling in the Little Italy neighbourhood where they remain today.

As described by the applicant, Joe Pantalone made considerable contributions to the city across a 30-year career in municipal politics. He served the City of Toronto as Alderman, Metro Councillor, Toronto Councillor, and then Deputy Mayor. During his career, Councillor Pantalone was involved with several committees as well as City corporations and agencies. This includes the Planning and Transport Committee, Toronto Transit Commission, Urban Environment and Development Committee, and the Metro Drug Abuse Prevention Task Force. Councillor Pantalone also served as Director of Toronto Hydro (2002, 2009-2010) and Chairman of Exhibition Place's Board of

Governors from 1995 until 2010. During his time with Exhibition Place, this City agency saw the addition of the BMO Field to its grounds.

In 1999, Mayor Mel Lastman appointed Councillor Pantalone as the City's "Tree Advocate" in recognition his leadership harmonizing tree preservation by-laws following municipal amalgamation. The role of the Tree Advocate is to promote urban forestry policies that support the City of Toronto's goals for sustainable urban forestry management. As part of his ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship, Councillor Pantalone later founded the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation. In addition, Councillor Pantalone served as Deputy Mayor under Mayor David Miller from 2003 until 2010. In 2012, he received the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal.

The applicant demonstrated strong community engagement through the submission of a petition containing 145 signatures in support of the proposed naming, as well as a letter of support from the Little Italy Business Improvement Area (BIA). The signatures on the petition were gathered from both the laneway's abutting properties and the larger community. The applicant also indicated that no objections to the proposed naming were received while the petition was open.

As the application details and City staff research confirms, Joe Pantalone's contributions to the community reflect a significant commitment to civic engagement in Toronto across three decades of public service.

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 Saxe, Ward 11 - University - Rosedale, supports this naming.

Consent was provided by Joe Pantalone, the named party.

Community support was demonstrated with a petition of signatures from property owners/residents who directly abut the lane and from the local community. A letter of support from the Little Italy Business Improvement Area was also received.

The lane is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2022-023

CONTACT

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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-2022-023

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2022-023, showing the location of an existing public lane located west of Grace Street, extending between Harbord Street and north of College Street.



PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET
NAMING OF A PUBLIC LANE WEST OF GRACE STREET, EXTENDING BETWEEN HARBORD STREET AND NORTH OF COLLEGE STREET

NOTE:
 THIS SKETCH HAS BEEN COMPILED FROM OFFICE RECORDS. MEASUREMENTS ARE APPROXIMATE

CHECK BY: ANA MICHALEK
 PREPARED BY: DWAYNE PITT

WARD 11 - UNIVERSITY-ROSEDALE
 DATE: MAY 13, 2022

SKETCH No. PS-2022-023