

## **Naming of an existing Public Lane South of College Street, east of Euclid Avenue, being the north and south segment of the lane**

**Date:** May 29, 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**

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This report recommends that the name "Palmira Lane" be approved to identify the north/south segment of an existing public lane located south of College Street, east of Euclid 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/>.

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

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The 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 "Palmira Lane" for an existing public lane located south of College Street, east of Euclid Avenue, being the north and south segment of the lane.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The cost to install street name signage is approximately \$300.00 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**

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

## **COMMENTS**

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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 from a resident through the Ward 11 University-Rosedale Councillor's office, requesting to name the existing public lane located south of College Street, east of Euclid Avenue, being the north and south segment of the lane, as "Palmira Lane", celebrating the many stories of the women in this community that came bravely across the sea with their families as pilgrims and built this neighborhood.

The Councillor's office and the applicant have jointly provided the following background and rationale:

### **"Palmira Lane"**

*"This name came about as a result of consultation with local stakeholders and residents. The term was proposed for the following reasons:*

*Palmira is a traditional women's name in Italian and Portuguese communities and translates to "Palm tree" or "Palmer/Pilgrim". This term carries symbolism of victory, triumph, and a resilient spirit, and perfectly captures the historic and contemporary character of the neighborhood. This choice is intended to honour the many stories of the women in this community that came bravely across the sea with their families as pilgrims and built this neighborhood. This commemoration of their legacy will serve to guide and locate us on our own pilgrimage through this city.*

*Because of the term's honoring of immigrant stories and female leadership, we are honored to be able to endorse this proposal."*

### **Palmira Lane Research and Review**

The Economic Development and Culture Division (EDC) has reviewed the application to name the unnamed lane south of College Street and east of Euclid Avenue in the Little Italy neighbourhood. The proposed name, "Palmira Lane," is intended to commemorate a foundational generation of Italian Canadian and Portuguese Canadian women in

Toronto. The application includes a letter of support from Councillor Dianne Saxe (Ward 11, University–Rosedale). The following summarizes EDC’s research and review of the proposed name, undertaken in accordance with the City’s Guiding Principles for Commemoration.

The application indicates that the name Palmira is intended to commemorate the many Italian and Portuguese women who immigrated to Toronto during the 1950s and 1960s, often joining spouses who had established themselves in the city earlier. Many of these families settled in and around what is now the Little Italy neighbourhood. The application notes how the newly arrived women played key roles within their households and communities, contributing as caregivers, wage earners, and community builders.

EDC’s research supports that the proposed name reflects the central role of Italian and Portuguese women in shaping the cultural and social fabric of the Little Italy and Little Portugal areas. Both communities experienced significant mid-20th century immigration, with family reunification leading to an increased presence of women who contributed to neighbourhood stability through domestic labour, small business activity, and community development. Despite facing discrimination and economic hardship, these communities established enduring cultural institutions, social networks, and local businesses that continue to define the area.

The name Palmira, meaning “pilgrim” in Italian, was a common given name in Portugal and Italy from the 1920s to the early 1940s. Accordingly, many of the women who settled in Little Italy in the 1950s and 1960s bore this name. The application notes that the name evokes this generation of women whose contributions helped shape Italian and Portuguese Canadian identities in Toronto.

In summary, the application states and staff research demonstrates that the Italian and Portuguese immigrant populations in Toronto significantly increased in the 1950s and 1960s, including many women arriving through family reunification. As Palmira was a popular name during this period, the proposed commemorative name is intended to recognize and honour the contributions of this generation of women to the development of the community.

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

The Councillor’s office engaged with local stakeholders and residents to secure community support for the proposed name.

The lane is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2026-021.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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

Patrick Tobin, General Manager, Economic Development & Culture

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. **PS-2026-021**

