

Naming of an Existing Public Lane Located West of Vaughan Road, North of Ellsworth Avenue

Date: June 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 12 - Toronto - St. Paul's

SUMMARY

This report recommends that the name "Aren Levy Lane" be approved to identify an existing public lane located west of Vaughan Road, north of Ellsworth 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

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 "Aren Levy Lane" for an existing public lane located west of Vaughan Road, north of Ellsworth Avenue.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

At its meeting on June 24 and 25, 2026, City Council adopted item MM42.48 requesting the Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services and the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to submit a staff report to the July 8 and 9, 2026 meeting of the Toronto and East York Community Council with recommendations to name the existing public lane located west of Vaughan Road, north of Ellsworth Avenue as "Aren Levy Lane".

[Agenda Item History - 2026.MM42.48](#)

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.

This report responds to item MM42.48 and the request received on June 24, 2026 from Councillor Josh Matlow to name the existing public lane located west of Vaughan Road, north of Ellsworth Avenue, as "Aren Levy Lane" honouring the familial legacy of Aren Levy, a local community figure, for his contribution to his neighbourhood over the last 30 years.

The following background and rationale was provided by the applicant:

Aren Levy Lane

For over 30 years, Aren Levy owned and operated Levy's, a family clothing store at 541 St. Clair West. From the early 1970s until the late 2000s, the store was an anchor of the St. Clair West community. At its height, the business expanded to three locations, even being featured on Eye on Toronto and frequently cited in the media as a formidable competitor to major retailers such as Winners and The Bay.

As we navigate some recent health challenges with my father, our family is eager to cement his 30-year legacy in the neighborhood he helped build.

We are requesting to name the unnamed laneway located directly behind 541 St. Clair West to Aren Levy Lane. This specific lane is deeply tied to the store's history, as it was the primary access point my father used for three decades to manage shipments. Our family also owned the building for many years, deepening our roots at this location.

Aren Levy Research and Review

The Economic Development and Culture Division (EDC) has undertaken a limited review of the proposal to name a laneway in honour of Aren Levy, a long-time local retailer and community member associated with the St. Clair West and Bathurst Street area. Due to the timing of the application and reporting requirements, EDC was not able to complete a full Guiding Principles Research and Review prior to consideration of this naming proposal. The following summary reflects the research that could be completed within the available timeframe and is intended to provide preliminary context regarding the proposed commemorative naming.

The application identifies Aren Levy and his wife Margaret Levy as owners and operators of Levy's, a family-run clothing store that served the local community for more than three decades. According to information provided by the applicant, the business operated initially at 541 St. Clair Avenue West and later at 1445 Bathurst Street, offering discounted European designer clothing. The store reportedly closed in 2010.

Research conducted by EDC confirmed the presence of Levy's at 541 St. Clair Avenue West through historical Google Street View imagery from 2007 and 2009. Additional information located by staff indicates that the Levy family had a long history in Toronto retail. A 1981 Toronto Star article reports that the original Levy's Department Store operated on Rogers Road and that a second location on St. Clair Avenue West opened in the fall of 1979. The article further notes that Aren Levy's mother, Fanny Levy, had managed the original store for nearly twenty years prior to that time.

Evidence of community recognition was identified through a public Facebook post made on May 3, 2026, by David Levy in the St. Clair West Avenue Community Group, seeking memories and photographs related to the store. The discussion generated over twenty comments from community members recalling their experiences shopping at Levy's. Commenters described the store as a valued neighbourhood destination known for quality merchandise, affordable prices, and personalized customer service. Several respondents referenced relationships developed with Margaret Levy over many years of patronage and noted Aren Levy's presence and visibility within the surrounding community.

The comments also provide anecdotal evidence of the store's broad customer base and local significance. For example, a musician and actress recalled purchasing evening gowns at Levy's for their work in the entertainment industry. Contributions to the discussion further identified long-standing connections between the Levy family and the area, including references to Aren and Margaret Levy attending Vaughan Road Collegiate Institute.

Based on the information available at the time of review, EDC was able to confirm the existence and longevity of the business and identify evidence of positive community associations with the Levy family and their retail enterprise. The available research suggests that Levy's was a well-known local business that served neighbourhood residents over several decades and has remained a subject of community memory following its closure.

Given the abbreviated review period, EDC has not completed a full assessment against all Guiding Principles for Commemoration and has not undertaken comprehensive historical and archival research that would normally form part of a standard commemorative naming review. The findings above should therefore be considered preliminary and limited to the sources available within the reporting timeline.

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.

Consent was provided by David Levy, son of Aren Levy.

Councillor Josh Matlow, Ward 12 Toronto - St Paul's, supports this naming.

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

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

The lane is shown as PART 1 on Attachment No.1 Sketch No. PS-2026-028.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

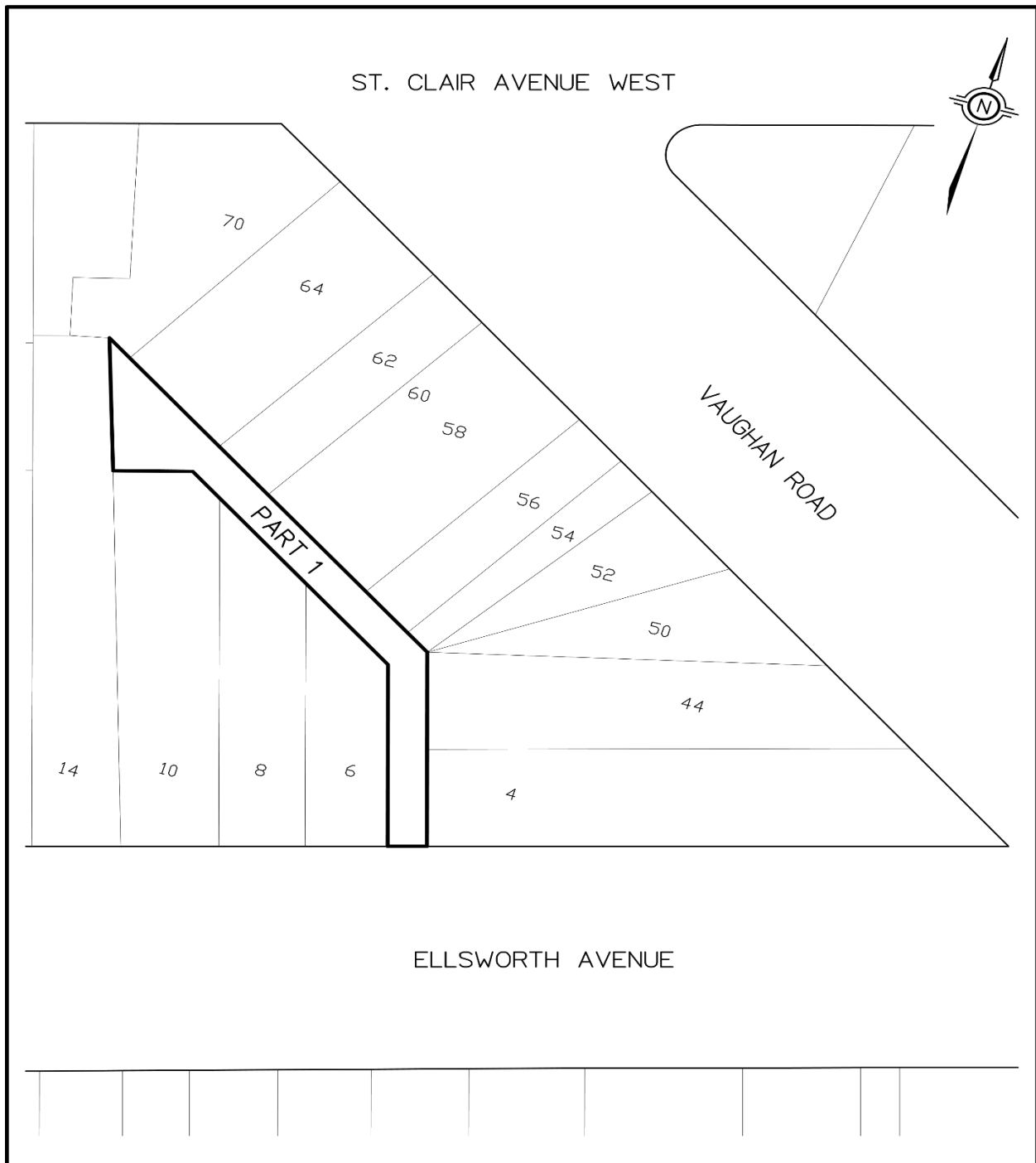
Avi Bachar, P. Eng., Director, Engineering Support Services, Engineering and Construction Services

Patrick Tobin, General Manager, Economic Development & Culture

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2026-028

Attachment No. 1 Sketch No. PS-2026-028, showing the location of an existing public lane located west of Vaughan Road, north of Ellsworth Avenue



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| <p>Toronto ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION SERVICES ENGINEERING SUPPORT SERVICES LAND & PROPERTY SURVEYS</p> | <p>PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET</p> |
| <p>NOTE: THIS SKETCH HAS BEEN COMPILED FROM OFFICE RECORDS. MEASUREMENTS ARE APPROXIMATE</p> | <p>NAMING OF AN EXISTING PUBLIC LANE LOCATED WEST OF VAUGHAN ROAD NORTH OF ELLSWORTH AVENUE</p> |
| <p>CHECKED BY: R. SEGUIN PREPARED BY: S. LOMBARDO</p> | <p>WARD 12 - TORONTO-ST. PAUL'S DATE: JUNE 25, 2026</p> <p style="text-align: right;">SKETCH No. PS-2026-028</p> |