

**City of Toronto
Street Naming Policy
(Adopted October 4, 2017)**

1. Policy Statement

Street names are critical for municipal addressing and emergency response purposes. This policy establishes criteria to name or rename a street or assign a ceremonial name to a Street.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 *Ceremonial Naming* refers to assigning a ceremonial name to a Street in honour of an individual, event or an organization that has made a significant and exceptional positive contribution to the City of Toronto, the Province of Ontario or Canada. A ceremonial name is a secondary name and does not replace the official name.
- 2.2 *City* refers to the City of Toronto.
- 2.3 *Draft Plan of Subdivision* is a document that shows the surveyed boundaries, location, size, and streets of a proposed subdivision.
- 2.4 *Duplicate* refers to street names that are identical, not including the street suffix.
- 2.5 *Division Head of Engineering & Construction Services* means the Executive Director of Engineering & Construction Services or his or her designate.
- 2.6 *Economic Development & Culture* refers to the City of Toronto's Economic Development and Culture Division or its successor.
- 2.7 *Engineering & Construction Services* refers to the City of Toronto's Engineering & Construction Services Division or its successor.
- 2.8 *First Responders* refers to Toronto Fire Services, Toronto Police Service, and Toronto Paramedic Services.
- 2.9 *Reference Plan* refers to a plan deposited in the local Land Registry Office and is a graphic representation of descriptions of land, as well as representations of divisions of land under the *Planning Act*.
- 2.10 *Similar Sounding* refers to street names that sound similar in their entirety, not including the street suffix.
- 2.11 *Street* is any existing or proposed public or private street, lane, or walkway within the boundaries of the City of Toronto.
- 2.12 *Street Suffix* refers to words that follow a street name and usually indicate the type of street configuration and or street direction.
- 2.13 *Unnamed Street* refers to any Street or a proposed street on a Reference Plan without an official name and not on a draft plan of a subdivision.

3. Criteria for Naming or Renaming a Street or Assigning a Ceremonial Name to a Street

- 3.1 The City will consider proposals for street naming but is under no obligation to accept a proposal to name, or rename a street, or assign a ceremonial name to a Street.
- 3.2 Street names, including ceremonial Street names should portray a strong positive image and have historical, cultural, aboriginal or social significance or contributions to the community, the City, the Province of Ontario or Canada.
- 3.3 Street names shall not impair the ability of First Responders to respond to emergencies or impair the City's ability to deliver services.
- 3.4 Streets that have been named, renamed, or assigned a ceremonial name within the previous ten years will not be renamed.
- 3.5 Assigning a ceremonial name to a Street will be considered before renaming a Street.
- 3.6 Suffixes for Street names are assigned by Engineering & Construction Services to ensure the appropriate suffix is used to describe the type, function, length and configuration of the Street.
- 3.7 All City costs involved in renaming a Street shall be the responsibility of the applicant.
- 3.8 Street names, including ceremonial names, shall not:
 - 3.8.1 Result in, or be perceived to confer, any competitive advantage, benefit or preferential treatment or advertisement to the named party, or a product, service or a particular business;
 - 3.8.2 Be or be perceived to be discriminatory or derogatory of race, colour, ethnic origin, gender identity or expression, sex, sexual orientation, creed, political affiliation, disability or other social factors;
 - 3.8.3 Result in inappropriate abbreviations or acronyms;
 - 3.8.4 Duplicate or be similar sounding to an existing Street name;
 - 3.8.5 Place the City in conflict with any agreements established in the acquisition or management of the street; and
 - 3.8.6 Make a direct or indirect reference to recent events or recently deceased individuals, except where the event or the individual had a legacy or significant contributions to the City of Toronto. Names of recent events or recently deceased individual may be considered after two years.
- 3.9 Street signs must comply with the Corporate Identity Program and the physical location of the sign shall be determined by the City.

3.10 Naming or renaming a Street, or assigning a ceremonial name to a Street, on behalf of an individual, event, or an organization requires the written consent of the named party or the named party's representative.

3.10.1 In circumstances where consent has not been received, despite reasonable efforts, the City, in absence of any refusal to provide consent or legal concerns, may approve the name if the applicant is able to demonstrate efforts to obtain consent to the satisfaction of the City.

4. Naming Streets on Draft Plans of Subdivisions

4.1 A proposal to name Streets on a draft plan of subdivision is to be made using the Street Naming Application through Engineering & Construction Services and at minimum is to include:

4.1.1 The proposed Street names, including any background information on the names;

4.1.2 A copy of the draft plan of a subdivision; and

4.1.3 Proposed Street names that portray aboriginal significance or are after an aboriginal individual, organization or event will require consultation with aboriginal communities and adherence to appropriate aboriginal practices or protocols.

4.2 The Division Head of Engineering & Construction Services will assess proposed Street names for draft plans of subdivisions in accordance with this Policy and consult with the Ward Councillor prior to granting approval.

4.3 In the event that the Ward Councillor does not support the proposed name(s), the relevant Community Council, (or City Council if it affects more than one Community Council or has City wide significance), will consider the proposed name(s) in accordance with Section 152 of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 27, Council Procedures.

5. Naming an Unnamed Street

5.1 A proposal to name an unnamed Street is to be made using the Street Naming Application through Engineering & Construction Services and at minimum is to include:

5.1.1 The proposed name;

5.1.2 Rationale for naming the Street;

- 5.1.3 Documented support from property owners/ residents who directly about the unnamed street or local community members and/or organizations, unless the street is on a Reference Plan;
 - 5.1.4 A map or an illustration, including major intersections of the unnamed street; and
 - 5.1.5 Proposed Street names that portray aboriginal significance or are after an aboriginal individual, organization or event will require consultation with aboriginal communities and adherence to appropriate aboriginal practices or protocols.
- 5.2 If the proposed name complies with this Policy, the City shall give public notice on its intention to name the street including the proposed name in compliance with Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 162, Notice, Public.
- 5.3 Community Council, (or City Council if it affects more than one Community Council or has Citywide significance), shall consider the proposed name in accordance with Section 152 of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 27, Council Procedures.
- 5.4 If the proposed name does not comply with the Policy, the Division Head of Engineering & Construction Services will report to Community Council.

6. Renaming City Streets

- 6.1 A proposal to rename a Street is to be made using the Street Naming Application through Engineering & Construction Services and at minimum is to include:
- 6.1.1 Rationale for changing the name and significance of the proposed name;
 - 6.1.2 Relevance of the proposed name to the Street;
 - 6.1.3 Documented support, including but not limited to petitions and support letters, from at least 75 percent of property owners that about the street;
 - 6.1.4 A map or an illustration, including major intersections of the street to be renamed; and
 - 6.1.5 Proposed Street names that portray aboriginal significance or are after an aboriginal individual, organization or event will require consultation with aboriginal communities and adherence to appropriate aboriginal practices or protocols.
- 6.2 If the proposed name complies with this Policy, the City will provide public notice on its intention to rename an existing street and the proposed name in compliance with Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 162, Notice, Public

- 6.3 The relevant Community Council, (or City Council if it affects more than one Community Council or has Citywide significance), shall consider the proposed name in accordance with Section 152 of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 27, Council Procedures.
- 6.4 If the proposed name does not comply with the Policy, the Division Head of Engineering & Construction Services will report to Community Council.

7. Assigning a Ceremonial Name to a City Street

- 7.1 A proposal to assign a ceremonial name to a Street is to be made using the Ceremonial Street Naming Application through Economic Development & Culture and at minimum is to include:
 - 7.1.1 The Street proposed for the ceremonial name;
 - 7.1.2 Rationale and significance of the proposed name;
 - 7.1.3 Relevance of the proposed name to the Street, community and City;
 - 7.1.4 Documented support from the local community, including but not limited to petitions and support letters;
 - 7.1.5 A map or an illustration, including major intersections of the Street; and
 - 7.1.6 Proposed Ceremonial Street names that portray aboriginal significance or are after an aboriginal individual, organization or event will require consultation with aboriginal communities and adherence to appropriate aboriginal practices or protocols.
- 7.2 The proposed name will be considered by the relevant Community Council, (or City Council if it affects more than one Community Council or has Citywide significance), in accordance with Section 152 of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 27, Council Procedures.
- 7.3 In circumstances, where a specific Street or location is not identified, Economic Development & Culture will provide Street location options in a report to Community Council (or City Council if it affects more than one Community Council or has Citywide significance), in accordance with Section 152 of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 27, Council Procedures.

8. Related City By-laws and Policies

- 8.1 [City of Toronto Street Naming Policy](#)
- 8.2 [Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 162, Notice, Public](#)
- 8.3 [Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 27, Council Procedures](#)
- 8.4 [City of Toronto Individual and Corporate Naming Rights Policy](#)
- 8.5 Street Naming Policy, 2000
- 8.6 [Corporate Identity Program](#)