

## Naming of Freemon Redmon Circle

This report recommends that the name "Freemon Redmon Circle" be approved to identify a proposed new public street at 971-979 Warden Avenue. This new public street requires a name prior to occupancy on August 1, 2021. To meet occupancy timelines, staff have reviewed the request for compliance with the City's existing Street Naming Policy, and also for alignment with the draft City of Toronto Principles for Commemoration in the Public Realm.

An application was received from a developer on January 26, 2021, requesting to name the proposed public street. The developer worked with Ward Councillor Michael Thompson's office to request that the proposed public street be named "Freemon Redmon Circle," honouring a local resident and founding member of the Wexford community in Scarborough.

The following background and rationale was provided by the developer and the Ward Councillor's office:

### **"Freemon Redmon Circle"**

*Born in Toronto in 1925, and worked at the family owned Redmon Haulage, Toronto's first black owned haulage company. He was a founding member of the Wexford community in Scarborough. Freemon was active in his community, volunteering in youth organizations, sponsoring sports and the first Black Debutante Ball in 1968. Freemon spoke about the importance of participating in the democratic process as a Black person. He started his own general contracting company in the 1970s. He was invited to speak at the University of Toronto Summer Mentorship Program for Black and Indigenous Youth. He discovered a passion for sharing his history and in 2010 collaborated with historian and curator Dr. S. Taylor with The Northern Lights: African-Canadian Stories exhibit.*

### **Review of Application**

This naming was reviewed under the provisions of Section 3.8 of the Street Naming Policy which states:

*3.8 Street names, including ceremonial names, shall not:*

*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.*

Freemon Redmon passed away on April 19, 2020. Based on the named party's contributions to the Wexford community in Scarborough, as a founding member and lifelong volunteer, it is determined that this naming is in compliance with section 3.8.6 of the Street Naming Policy. The Redmon family has a long history in Toronto. Freemon was the youngest of six children born to Nathan and Goldie Redmon. The Redmons arrived in Toronto from Chicago in 1913 with their infant daughter Helen. During their

first eight years in Toronto the Redmons lived at various addresses, all within a few blocks of Bathurst and College Streets. Nathan took a job as a porter with the Canadian Pacific Railway's sleeping, dining car and news service. When the Great War ended, Nathan saw an opportunity and established a trucking business with another CPR porter, Joseph Jenkins. The partnership was short lived, but it created the foundation for Redmon Haulage. In 1923, the family built a house at 122 Belgravia Avenue in the new suburban village of Fairbank. Nathan and Goldie would raise their family and operate the business from there for the next 35 years.

The proposed naming was also reviewed to determine its alignment with the draft City of Toronto Principles for Commemoration in the Public Realm, as described in the table below.

<b>Alignment with Draft Principles for Commemoration in the Public Realm</b>	
<b>Principle</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Indigenous place-keeping	The proposed name does not relate to Indigenous Peoples.
Diversity our strength	The proposed name commemorates the life and legacy of a Black Torontonian. Black communities are one of the priority groups for improved representation in public commemorations.
Co-creation	The applicant sought advice and input from the local Councillor's office to develop an appropriate name based on community needs and interests.
Demonstrated community support and community engagement	Consent was provided from Kathleen Petrie, the daughter of the named party. Broader engagement is not required per Section 5.1.3 of the existing Street Naming Policy as this is a new street by redevelopment and as such there are no property owners/residents to give support.
Relevance to Toronto	The proposed name commemorates a resident of Wexford, with ties to local business and history.
Celebrating untold stories	There are no existing commemorations for Freeman Redmon in Toronto.
Historical and community research	Research by the applicant and City staff, detailed above, support the proposed street name.
Compliance with legislation, City By-laws and policies	The proposed name complies with all appropriate legislation, City By-laws and policies.

The proposed name has been circulated for comment and is acceptable to Toronto Police Service, Toronto Fire Services, and Toronto Paramedic Services. The local Councillor for Ward 21 Scarborough Centre is also in support of this naming.

The cost to install street name signage is approximately \$500 and is included within the Transportation Services Division Operating Budget.

"PART 1" in the illustration below shows the location of the proposed public street, east of Warden Avenue and south of Minford Avenue.

Figure 1: Location of proposed public street at 971-979 Warden Avenue

