



PFC2021-0631
Attachment 8

Attachment 8 - Application and letters of support for "Paul 'Smokey' Wilkinson Park" (Confidential)

Proposed Name:	Paul "Smokey" Wilkinson
Nominator:	Mr. Bryce Paton
Achievements:	<p>Paul is not your typical nominee being honoured by the name of a green space, park or street. While 'homeless' in the traditional sense, he considered the streets, alleys, nooks and greenspaces of Kensington/Hillhurst to be his home. A better description of his uniqueness can be found via the following online link to a Global TV newstory covering his celebration of life; and a follow-up QR77 "Off Script" podcast title "A Boy Named Paul". Can you image someone more deserving? Also appended is the Eulogy I delivered for Paul at his Celebration of Life Service at Hillhurst United Church. In it I describe some of his youth, life challenges, community and other relationships; and the profound impact he made on others in a very unique way. Please also refer to this Global News link https://globalnews.ca/news/3227082/calgary-church-packed-for-emotional-memorialhonouring-man-who-changed-the-face-of-homelessness/</p>
Impact:	<p>After news of Paul's death spread on the street, at church and via social media; there was a huge outpouring of tributes to Paul ranging from a few words posted on Facebook to longer stories and images describing how he impacting their lives. Hillhurst United Church assembled many of the tributes into a "Memories Book" which was shared with his family in Ontario and to others as a keepsake. Attached is a PDF file which describes his impact via first person accounts; better than I could put to words.</p>
Preferred Greenspace:	HIL494
letter of support from CA:	attached - Hillhurst Sunnyside
letter of permission from family:	email attached
other letters of support:	2 attached: David Swan, Hillhurst United Church



December 6, 2019

Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association
320 5 Ave NW
Calgary, AB T2N 0S2

Michelle Reid
Our Parks, Our People, Calgary 125 Campaign
City of Calgary

Via Email: michelle.reid@calgary.ca

Dear Michelle:

Re: HIL494 Green Space Naming Application

As required in the application being submitted by Bryce Paton and John Pentland to name HIL 494 Green Space after Paul "Smokey" Wilkinson; this is to confirm the Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association (HSCA) has no objection to this proposal.

The Hillhurst Green Space designated HIL494 is not commonly known by any other name in the community of Hillhurst and HSCA cannot identify any other reason for objection to this proposal.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kate Stenson', is written over a faint blue line.

Kate Stenson
Executive Director

1320 – 5 Ave NW, Calgary, Alberta T2N 0S2
Ph: 403-283-0554 * Fax: 403-270-3130, www.hsc.ca

Reid, Michelle

From: Carolyn Whitmee <cwhitmee310@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 6:51 AM
To: Reid, Michelle
Subject: [EXT] Re: Paul Wilkinson naming application
Attachments: image001.png

Thank you for your email and yes I do give permission as next of kin and the spelling of Paul's name is Paul David Wilkinson this is quite an honour in Paul's name

On Thu., Feb. 27, 2020, 3:05 p.m. Reid, Michelle, <Michelle.Reid@calgary.ca> wrote:

Hello Carolyn,

I hope this finds you well. I am working on advancing the naming application for your brother, Paul. It seems he was a very important person within the community of Hillhurst.

I do need confirmation from you, as next of kin, that you support The City of Calgary naming a park in his honour. If you can respond affirmatively to this email then that will be fine as illustrating support. If you can also confirm spelling of his name that would be very helpful too.

Thanks very much for your help,

Michelle

Michelle Reid, CSLA, MCIP
Cultural Landscape Lead
Calgary Parks | 403.268.5290 | michelle.reid@calgary.ca
P.O. Box 2100, Station M#77, Calgary, AB Canada T2P 2M5



November 14, 2019

Dr. David Swann
Former Member, Legislative Assembly of Alberta, Calgary Mountain View
917 3rd Ave NW
Calgary, T2N 0J1

City of Calgary
Municipal Naming Strategist
PO Box 2100, Str. M, #8026,
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5,

Dear City of Calgary Municipal Naming Strategist:

Re: Green Space Naming Application: HIL494 – Paul "Smokey" Wilkinson

This letter is to reflect my personal support for the application being submitted to name the City of Calgary's Green Space, designated as HIL494, in the memory of Paul 'Smokey' Wilkinson and his unique impact on the community of Hillhurst.

While I never met Paul I have heard much of his story and the impact he has had on the people of Hillhurst United Church, where I attend; all of it is positive and actually inspiring. Positive in the respect and generosity he showed to folks in the neighborhood and the Church community; inspiring in his honest reflection of the struggles of mental illness and addiction and how he rallied a new understanding and generosity through his own efforts to connect and contribute.

The naming of this park after Paul (Smokey) Wilkinson would honor his memory and establish a new awareness and hopefully, more compassionate relationships with those among us who suffer these illnesses. It might even contribute to less stigma and judgement in our City.

I sincerely hope this will be given serious consideration and be a landmark decision in Alberta

Yours truly,



David Swann, M.D.



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November 12, 2019

City of Calgary
Our Parks, Our People. Calgary 125 Campaign

Letter of Reference PAUL "SMOKEY" WILKINSON (Green Space Naming HIL 494)

I am pleased to support a recognition of *Paul Wilkinson*, a vibrant member of the Kensington community. I knew Paul for over ten years. I called him the King of Kensington. His personality was larger than life.

Paul was a member of Hillhurst United Church. He was a frequent participant in our worship and community events. As a homeless person he was around receiving food, handouts and support. He also offered those same supports to others. He was a willing worker. Every year he set up our Christmas light and often shovelled our walk ways.

Paul was also a great community participant in outreach to others. We often held his money, as he did not have a bank account. Paul provided support to the Fire Fighters in Ft McMurray at a time of crisis via a donation we made from the small amount of money we kept on his behalf. The children in the area received a portion of his panhandling to 'do something good with the money'. He also was a participant at weddings and funerals offering support to those in attendance.

We are fully aware of his 'edgy side' but always found him to be a compassionate and kind soul. At his funeral over 200 people attended and he was remembered by his lawyer, social worker, uniformed Calgary Police, Calgary Fire Department, EMS, By-Law Officers and local business owners. Local media covered this newsworthy event. The congregation was mixed with wealthy, impoverished, racially diverse and multi aged people in gratitude for his life. We celebrated his passion and reminder that church was for everyone. He symbolized this ancient truth.

Paul was the heart of our community. Having this site designated in his name will honour and remember a vibrant and passionate person whose streets were his home. All who met him were changed for the better.

Please accept my full endorsement of this effort to permanently remember Paul.

Rev. Dr. John Pentland

Lead Minister, Hillhurst United Church

...because you are who separates you from the rest of the world...
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hillhurst
united church