



Naming of a Pedestrian Bridge in West Hillhurst - Letters of Support

EC2023-0954
Attachment 2

Letters of Support

Community Letter of Support	2
WHCA Motion Approval	4
Terry Wong Letter of Support	6
Al Duerr Letter of Support	7
Bonnie Dupont Letter of Support	8
Gayla Rogers Letter of	9
Michelle Clark Letter of Support	10
Patrick McKay Letter of Support	11
Pattie Grier Letter of Support	12
Sharon Stevens Letter of Support	13



West Hillhurst Community Association

June 7, 2023

Dear City of Calgary,

Re: Bev Longstaff-West Hillhurst Pedestrian Bridge

We, the undersigned, would like to add our support to the initiative brought forward by a resident group and the West Hillhurst Community Association to name the 21st Street NW Pedestrian Bridge in honour of the Alderman/Councillor Bev Longstaff, to be known as Bev Longstaff - West Hillhurst Pedestrian Bridge.

In 2001, Ward 7 councillor (then known as alderman) Bev Longstaff was instrumental in increasing community mobility and safety when she brought the 21st Street NW pedestrian bridge to the West Hillhurst Community. The bridge enables all users of the Bow River Pathway network to safely cross Memorial Drive into West Hillhurst and then onto surrounding communities.

To honour her time on council and her decades of community service, we would like to add our names in support of the new bridge and acknowledge her many contributions to the City of Calgary.

Thank you,

Michelle Clark/3 AV/West Hillhurst

Christopher Gadsby/3 AV/West Hillhurst

Byron Miller/2 AV/West Hillhurst

Rebecca Best/2 AV/West Hillhurst

James Murphy/5 AV/West Hillhurst

Heather Skarsgaard/6 AV/West Hillhurst

Brian McCready/7 AV/West Hillhurst

Marc Coyte/7 AV/West Hillhurst

Janice Paskey/7AV/West Hillhurst

Susan Stewart/7 AV/West Hillhurst

Karen Smith/5 AV/West Hillhurst

Christopher Wong/18 A St./West Hillhurst
Gayle MacDonald/18 St./West Hillhurst
Gregory Taylor/21 St/West Hillhurst
Anuradha Gobin/21 St./West Hillhurst
Matthew Grant/25 St./West Hillhurst
Carly Duerr/25 St./West Hillhurst
Julie Impey/20 St/West Hillhurst
Karen Dahl/Broadview Rd./West Hillhurst
Patrick Mackay/Broadview Rd./West Hillhurst
Marlene Germscheid/3 AV/West Hillhurst
Emily Struck Farquhar/Eau Claire
Laura Parken/ Hillhurst Sunnyside
Christopher Turner/10 A St./Hillhurst-Sunnyside
Ashley Bristowe/10 A St. /Hillhurst-Sunnyside
Vincent Duckworth/5 St./Hillhurst Sunnyside
Jeff Marsh/Briar Hill & Hounsfield Heights CA
Lise Houle/15 St./Hounsfield Heights

(Community letter ends)



West Hillhurst Community Association

West Hillhurst Community Association approves motion for pedestrian bridge naming. March 13, 2023.

1. Approval of Motion 202303a (appended) in support of naming Pedestrian Bridge at 21 Stand Memorial Drive NW: Bev Longstaff West Hillhurst Pedestrian Bridge
 - a. moved by: James Heater
 - b. seconded by: Casey Kennedy
 - c. approved by Cher Jacobs, Jan Cerny, Marc Coyte, James Heater, Dylan Richards, Dave Best, Leigha Pidde, Lawrence Brault, Julie Impey, Peter Stunden

In response to Motion brought forth by the WHCA Transportation and Mobility Committee:

The West Hillhurst transportation and mobility committee recommends naming of the Bev Longstaff West Hillhurst Pedestrian Bridge. We ask that the West Hillhurst Board of Directors support the following motion:

Motion: The West Hillhurst Board of Directors supports the naming of the pedestrian bridge at 21 St and Memorial Drive: the Bev Longstaff West Hillhurst pedestrian bridge.

Preamble:

1. Whereas the pedestrian bridge was transformational mobility infrastructure for West Hillhurst giving the community access to the river pathway.
2. Whereas the bridge is currently unnamed.
3. Whereas the councillor responsible for advocating and implementing this bridge was Ward 7 councillor Bev Longstaff.
4. Whereas a community group is advocating the naming of the bridge to recognize Bev Longstaff.

5. Whereas there is no cost for a naming application.
6. Whereas the Ward7 Councillor Terry Wong is supportive of this naming.

Note: this motion was approved by the West Hillhurst Board of Directors March 14 2023 and by the West Hillhurst Transportation and Mobility committee Mar. 8 2023.





Calgary
Office of the Councillor
Terry Wong, Ward 7 Councillor

May 26, 2023

To City of Calgary Council:

Re: Bev Longstaff West Hillhurst Pedestrian Bridge Naming Proposal

Please accept this letter of support of the proposal to name the 21st Street NW Pedestrian Bridge to be the Bev Longstaff West Hillhurst Pedestrian Bridge.

Bev Longstaff was Ward 7 Councillor when she advocated for the safe pedestrian crossing from West Hillhurst and surrounding communities onto the Calgary River Pathways. The bridge remains a fundamental piece of infrastructure in the community.

The West Hillhurst Community Association has completed due diligence by surveying their neighbours and advising surrounding neighbourhoods. There were no members of the public against the proposal, and many wanted to add their names to a community support letter which is included in the application.

I personally worked for the City of Calgary during her time in office and have respect for her service and leadership. It's an honour, as current Ward 7 Councillor, that I can support a former Ward 7 Councillor in such a way.

Sincerely,

Terry Wong
(He/Him/His)
Ward 7 City
Council
The City of Calgary

Historic City Hall Building, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 2100, Station M, #8001 | Calgary, AB, Canada T2P 2M5 | T 403.268.2475 | terry.wong@calgary.ca

May 15, 2023

City of Calgary

To Whom it May Concern:

Re: Bev Longstaff West Hillhurst Pedestrian Bridge

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I am writing this letter to support the naming of the 21st Street NW pedestrian bridge to the Bev Longstaff West Hillhurst Pedestrian Bridge. As a former Mayor of Calgary, I can think of no better way to honour a woman who is the personification of servant leadership within her community and to the entire city of Calgary. I worked closely with Bev through my four terms as Mayor and found her passion and commitment to Calgary knew no bounds. Bev was always there and willing to address the big challenges, whether it be advocating for a critical community project, like the 21st Street bridge, or leading larger social and community issues, like the Mayor's Task Force on Family and Community Violence and its successors. She was a trusted advisor, and someone I could always rely on to help navigate complex issues.

While Bev had a long history of community advocacy and leadership including the Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association and the Federation of Calgary Communities, it was her ability to get things accomplished that differentiated her work. The 21st Bridge is probably the best example, providing a permanent, safe connection between the community of Hillhurst Sunnyside and the Calgary's signature river pathways system.

Bev's contributions to Calgary were not limited to physical improvements. A strong sense of social justice prevailed in all her decisions, defining her work. One of the most important initiatives during our terms in office was the establishment and implementation of the Mayor's Task Force on Community and Family Violence. From the very beginning, Bev served as a personal advisor and mentor, including participating as a Task Force member through its implementation, which was a personally challenging and deeply emotional exercise. The Task Force's extensive community consultation, connection, and coordination with the over 80 organizations in this space, along with many individuals impacted by family violence, resulted in every one of the Task Force's 66 recommendations being implemented during our terms of office. While the Task Force carried the name of the office of the Mayor, Bev was an indispensable and influential leader through this process, an active participant in the follow up including the continent leading HomeFront community justice initiative. As Mayor my motto was 'strong people make strong cities', and Bev was not only a strong woman herself, she helped our most vulnerable find their voice and purpose so they too could be strong contributors to Calgary.

I have nothing but the utmost respect and admiration for Bev and all that she has done for my City, and our broader community. Renaming the 21st Street bridge would be a long overdue recognition of one of the most hardworking and inspirational female leaders Calgary has known. The Bev Longstaff West Hillhurst Pedestrian Bridge will be a lasting legacy, and a lasting tribute to a true community leader.

Yours sincerely,



Al Duerr, MBA, ICD.D
Former Mayor of Calgary

Bonnie Dianne DuPont

Bonnie DuPont
219 Canova Place SW
Calgary, AB T2W 2E9

May 10, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding: Ms. Bev Longstaff

It is my distinct pleasure to add my voice to those recommending the 21 Street NW Pedestrian Bridge be named in honour of Bev Longstaff.

Ms. Longstaff is a true Calgarian. She was born and raised in Calgary and has served her city in many roles, always with dedication and distinction. She has spent most of her life as a community leader and advocate.

Her record of public service in our community is well known. From working in senior positions in Community Associations to her outstanding record of service as a City Councillor from 1989 to 2001. She advocated for this bridge to be built over 20 years ago, when she recognized the need for a safe pedestrian crossing in that area.

Her community involvement did not stop with her retirement from City Council. Bev has continued to advocate for Cancer Research, for remedies for Homelessness, and for general improvements to our city and our lives as Calgarians. She is a sought-after, highly engaged hard working volunteer and lends her significant intellect and creativity to any cause she undertakes.

Yours truly,



Bonnie DuPont, AOE, M.Ed., F.ICD.D
bonniedupont@me.com
403.978.7816

317-40th Ave SW
Calgary AB, T2S 0X5

April 24, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

Re: Bev Longstaff Bridge Naming Proposal

This letter is in support of the West Hillhurst Community Association's initiative to name the 21st Street NW pedestrian bridge, the **Bev Longstaff West Hillhurst Pedestrian Bridge**. Bev is a most worthy of this recognition given her longstanding contributions to civil society, civic engagement and community leadership. As the former Dean of Social Work at the University of Calgary and having served on the HomeFront Board with her, I have witnessed first-hand Bev's talent and tenure as an inspiring leader.

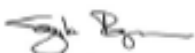
Prior to turning to civic politics, Bev served as President of the Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association, VP for the Federation of Calgary communities and President of the Coalition of NW Communities. In all these roles she was a tireless advocate for citizen engagement in local affairs.

Through her 4 terms as a Councillor, she served the City with diligence and dedication. Among her many achievements, she championed getting the 21st Street pedestrian bridge built to enable a safe pedestrian and bicycle crossing over Memorial Drive. This bridge has not only served the Hillhurst Sunnyside and adjacent communities well, but it also has become a vital asset and critical element of the entire Calgary river pathway system. I personally ride my bike or walk over the bridge multiple times per month and am thankful it is there every single time.

Bev's leadership in the non-profit sector is exemplary and significant. It spans serving as president of a community association, to work with the G8 summit, the Calgary Airport Authority, the Salvation Army, the United Way, the Homeless Foundation, SAIT, the University of Calgary and HomeFront, to name a few. Her commitment to this sector reflects her values of giving back, helping others, and leading change to improve systems.

Bev thinks deeply and critically about the world around her, but is also willing and able to roll up her sleeves. Bev has and continues to be a strategic and savvy change agent with the betterment of her community and those in need of help, upper most in her mind. Her contributions are many, they are noteworthy and important. The naming of the 21st Street pedestrian bridge is a most fitting way to recognize Bev's legacy, honour her years on Council and decades of community service, and pay tribute to a most worthy woman who has made a significant difference to our City.

Yours truly,



Gayla Rogers PhD RSW
Professor Emerita & former Dean
Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary
grogers@ucalgary.ca 403-681-2356

March 14, 2023

Janice Paskey
West Hillhurst Transportation and Mobility Committee
West Hillhurst Community Association
1940 6 Avenue NW
Calgary, AB
T2N 0W3

Dear Janice,

As a West Hillhurst resident, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the naming of the Bev Longstaff West Hillhurst Pedestrian Bridge.

I have lived in this community for over 20 years and remember Bev Longstaff as a caring and effective city councillor (alderman back then). She was a tremendous asset to the community – representing the interests of her constituents well and advocating for significant community improvements, such as the pedestrian bridge at 21 Street NW. She had a strong vision for the city as a whole and worked tirelessly to improve the social and economic well-being of all Calgarians.

The 21 Street pedestrian bridge is well-used (and well-loved) by West Hillhurst residents and is an important part of Bev Longstaffs' legacy to the community. Naming the bridge in her honour would be a fitting tribute to a leader who devoted many years to public service and significantly improved the lives of West Hillhurst residents.

Sincerely,

Michelle Clarke
West Hillhurst Resident

Patrick McKay

1829 Broadview Road NW

Calgary, AB

403-244-6078

Patrickmckay403@gmail.com

Terry Wong

Ward 7 City Councillor

City of Calgary

Re: Bev Longstaff Pedestrian Bridge Naming Proposal Dear Mr. Wong,

I am writing in support of naming the pedestrian bridge connecting the Memorial pathways and West Hillhurst after former city councillor Bev Longstaff.

In 2001, West Hillhurst received a transformational piece of infrastructure: the pedestrian bridge over Memorial Parkway at 21St. NW. The Ward 7 councilor Bev Longstaff championed the West Hillhurst pedestrian bridge and implemented it.

To honour this achievement and contribution to West Hillhurst, the West Hillhurst Board of Directors approved a motion to name the bridge: the Bev Longstaff West Hillhurst pedestrian bridge. I support this motion.

Sincerely,



Patrick McKay

Patti Grier
Patti.grier@shaw.ca
403 650-5302

April 12, 2023

Dear City of Calgary,

I am pleased and honoured to add my name in support of the West Hillhurst Community Association's initiative to name the 21st Street NW Pedestrian Bridge in honour of former Alderman Bev Longstaff, to be known as the Bev Longstaff West Hillhurst Pedestrian Bridge.

I was privileged to serve alongside Bev on Calgary City Council from 1995 to 2000 and have the pleasure of knowing Bev as a former colleague and a friend. Bev was a leader and a mentor to many, including myself. Her work and commitment to the communities she served was something that, as a young Alderman, I ascribed to model.

Bev was born and raised in Calgary and lived most of her life in the inner city including West Hillhurst, Hillhurst, Sunnyside and Eau Claire. She was a strong voice and advocate for the West Hillhurst-Sunnyside Community serving as Alderman from 1989 to 2001 and has left a legacy of her work within that community.

Bev was a strong and compassionate leader caring very deeply for the communities she served. She spent many weekends walking and cycling along the river pathways around her community and I think it only fitting to name the 21st Street NW Pedestrian Bridge as the Bev Longstaff West Hillhurst Pedestrian Bridge in recognition of Bev's longtime service to the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Patti Grier', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Patti Grier

April 21, 2023

To City Clerks, Naming Committee
To Whom it may concern,

The letter is in support of the community and neighbourhood campaign to name the 2 1 St NW pedestrian overpass and bridge to the:

Bev Longstaff-West Hillhurst Pedestrian Bridge

I worked as Ms. Longstaff's Executive Assistant from 1992 to 2001 and know first-hand what an effort Bev undertook to make this pedestrian bridge a reality. She championed the bridge construction with City Administration and her Council colleagues to approve the budget.

Bev advocated for City of Calgary Engineer Jadwiga Kroman to be the lead designer on the project (a rarity for a woman to lead projects in the 1990s). Ms. Kroman created a beautiful sweeping structure that feels safe as well as elegant.

Bev liaised with the late Bill Milne, the architect and designer of the bridge under Crowchild Trail to complete the circuit from north side of the Bow River to south which was constructed with private donations. This ensured that flow and extensive pedestrian use was achieved in tandem with both bridges. Bev used her connections to physically connect both sides of the Bow River. What a success!

Opening the bridge was one of the last achievements Bev did for her constituents and for Calgarians before her political career was completed in 2001. I remember balloons, music, hot dogs and lots of families on bikes, trikes, skateboards, and with baby carriages or walkers. We all gathered around to witness the cutting of the ribbon to officially open access to the Bow River Pathway from our neighbourhood.

And what a pathway! Calgary is the envy of the world to have such an extensive pathway system showcasing our beautiful riverbanks and providing not only transportation options but a source of health and wellness for Calgarians. And now with the pedestrian overpass, accessing this pathway from the north side of Memorial Drive is safe and well utilized.

I raised my family in Hillhurst with my daughters attending Hillhurst Community School and then Queen Elizabeth High school. And THAT is another reference for the apt naming of this pedestrian bridge. Bev grew up in Hillhurst and attended Queen Elizabeth HS along with her four siblings. Her photo is still on the wall in the hallways; she is truly a Hillhurst/West Hillhurst icon and champion.

Recognizing her efforts and commitment and vision by adding her name to the bridge is a gesture that is perhaps long overdue - so let's do this in her lifetime!

Sincerely,



Sharon Stevens

2220 7 Ave NW 403-463-6616