

4. NAMING – SAIGON SQUARE

DÉNOMINATION – PLACE SAIGON

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council approve:

1. That the plaza located at the southwest corner of Preston Street and Somerset Street West adjacent to the Plant Recreation Centre, as shown in Document 1, be designated “Saigon Square”; and
2. That a commemorative boulder and plaque be erected in this location, as described in this report, with the cost to be covered by the Vietnamese Canadian Centre; and
3. That the wording on the plaque be displayed as “This Square was named “Saigon” in recognition of the contribution to the City Of Ottawa by the Vietnamese Refugees who came to Canada in search of freedom”; and
4. That the General Manager of Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services be delegated the authority to negotiate and execute an agreement with the Vietnamese Canadian Centre detailing the terms, conditions and responsibilities for this project, to approve the final design and installation details of the boulder and plaque and to approve the final wording for the plaque in consultation with the Ward Councillor.

RECOMMANDATIONS DU COMITÉ

Que le Conseil approuve ce qui suit :

- 1. Que la place située à l'angle sud-ouest du croisement des rues Preston et Somerset Ouest, adjacente au Centre récréatif Plant, comme l'illustre le document 1, soit nommée « place Saigon »;**
- 2. Qu'une roche et une plaque commémoratives soient installées à cet endroit, comme le décrit le présent rapport, aux frais du Centre vietnamien du Canada;**
- 3. Que la mention suivante soit inscrite sur la plaque : « Cette place a été nommée "Saigon" en reconnaissance de la contribution à la ville d'Ottawa des réfugiés Vietnamiens venus s'installer au Canada en quête de liberté »;**
- 4. Que le directeur général de la Direction générale des loisirs, de la culture et des installations se voie déléguer le pouvoir de négocier et de signer une entente avec le Centre vietnamien du Canada, dans laquelle sont exposés les modalités, les conditions et les responsabilités relatives à ce projet, d'approuver les derniers détails entourant la conception et l'installation de la roche et de la plaque, et d'approuver la formulation définitive inscrite sur la plaque, après consultation du conseiller du quartier.**

DOCUMENTATION/DOCUMENTATION

1. Councillor C. McKenney report, dated 13 February 2018 (ACS2018-CCS-CPS-0004)

Rapport de la conseillère C. McKenney daté le 13 février 2018 (ACS2018-CCS-CPS-0004)

**Report to
Rapport au :**

**Community and Protective Services Committee
Comité des services communautaires et de protection
February 22, 2018 / 22 février 2018**

**and Council / et au Conseil
February 28, 2018 / 28 février 2018**

**Submitted on February 13, 2018
Soumis le 13 février 2018**

**Submitted by
Soumis par :
Catherine McKenney, Councillor / Conseillère**

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Ward: SOMERSET (14)

File Number: ACS2018-CCS-CPS-0004

SUBJECT: Naming – Saigon Square

OBJET: Dénomination – Place Saigon

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

**That the Community and Protective Services Committee recommend Council
approve:**

- 1. That the plaza located at the southwest corner of Preston Street and Somerset Street West adjacent to the Plant Recreation Centre, as shown in Document 1, be designated “Saigon Square”; and**
- 2. That a commemorative boulder and plaque be erected in this location, as described in this report, with the cost to be covered by the Vietnamese Canadian Centre; and**
- 3. That the wording on the plaque be displayed as “This Square was named “Saigon” in recognition of the contribution to the City Of Ottawa by the Vietnamese Refugees who came to Canada in search of freedom”; and**
- 4. That the General Manager of Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services be delegated the authority to negotiate and execute an agreement with the Vietnamese Canadian Centre detailing the terms, conditions and responsibilities for this project, to approve the final design and installation details of the boulder and plaque and to approve the final wording for the plaque in consultation with the Ward Councillor.**

RECOMMANDATIONS DU RAPPORT

Que le Comité des services communautaires et de protection recommande au Conseil d’approuver ce qui suit :

- 1. Que la place située à l’angle sud-ouest du croisement des rues Preston et Somerset Ouest, adjacente au Centre récréatif Plant, comme l’illustre le document 1, soit nommée « place Saigon » ;**
- 2. Qu’une roche et une plaque commémoratives soient installées à cet endroit, comme le décrit le présent rapport, aux frais du Centre vietnamien du Canada;**

3. **Que la mention suivante soit inscrite sur la plaque : « Cette place a été nommée “Saigon” en reconnaissance de la contribution à la ville d’Ottawa des réfugiés Vietnamiens venus s’installer au Canada en quête de liberté »;**
4. **Que le directeur général de la Direction générale des loisirs, de la culture et des installations se voie déléguer le pouvoir de négocier et de signer une entente avec le Centre vietnamien du Canada, dans laquelle sont exposés les modalités, les conditions et les responsabilités relatives à ce projet, d’approuver les derniers détails entourant la conception et l’installation de la roche et de la plaque, et d’approuver la formulation définitive inscrite sur la plaque, après consultation du conseiller du quartier.**

BACKGROUND

The West Centretown area has witnessed the growing presence of the Vietnamese community following the arrival of Vietnamese refugees to Ottawa with Project 4000 launched by former Ottawa Mayor Marion Dewar in 1979. Since then, the Vietnamese community has become increasingly vibrant and prosperous with thousands of members working at all three levels of government, in the high-tech sector, as well as in services and other industries.

The Councillor’s office has been working with the Vietnamese Canadian Centre for a suitable opportunity to commemorate the Vietnamese Canadian community in Ottawa.

DISCUSSION

It is recommended that Council approve that the plaza located at the southwest corner of Preston Street and Somerset Street West adjacent to the Plant Recreation Centre, as shown in Document 1, be designated “Saigon Square”, in recognition of the presence of the Vietnamese community in, and its contribution to, the City of Ottawa, especially in the West Centretown area.

“Saigon” was the name of the capital city of South Vietnam before it was taken over by the Vietnamese Communists in 1975. Although “Saigon” was later changed to “Ho Chi

Minh City”, the name “Saigon” is still cherished by millions of Vietnamese, especially those who fled Vietnam in search of freedom after 1975.

The plaza adjacent to the Plant Recreation Centre, located at the southwest corner of Preston Street and Somerset Street West (as shown in document 1), is already the location of the Vietnamese Commemorative Monument. Further, the northeast corner of Preston Street and Somerset West is the planned location of the Vietnamese Boat People museum.

The proposed naming has the support of the Vietnamese community as well as three key community groups in the West Centretown area including the Dalhousie Community Association, the Somerset Street Chinatown BIA, and the Preston Street BIA.

In addition to honouring the presence of the Vietnamese community in, and its contribution to, the City of Ottawa, the new designation would reflect well on the City’s commitment to diversity and multiculturalism.

RURAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

CONSULTATION

Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services Comment

The department supports this initiative and will work with the Councillor, Vietnamese Community, Community Association and local BIA’s to implement.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE(S) COMMENTS

This has not been considered by Advisory Committees.

COMMENTS BY THE WARD COUNCILLOR

This recommendation is being brought forward by the Ward Councillor.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal impediments to approving the recommendations contained in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications. Costs for installation of the Commemorative Plaque will be paid for by the Vietnamese Canadian Centre.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

There are no accessibility impacts associated with the recommendations of this report.

TERM OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES

The recommendation of this report aligns to the 2015-2018 Strategic Priority Healthy and Caring Communities (HC): Help all residents and visitors enjoy a good quality of life and a sense of community well-being by providing healthy, safe, secure, accessible and inclusive places and services.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Document 1 – Location Map – Area to be named “Saigon Square”

Document 2 – Draft Text – Commemorative Plaque

DISPOSITION

Staff will action any items as directed by the Committee.



DOCUMENT 2

Draft text commemorative plaque

“THIS SQUARE WAS NAMED “SAIGON” IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTION TO THE CITY OF OTTAWA BY THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO CAME TO CANADA IN SEARCH OF FREEDOM”