

Date: 2020-09-17

Subject: **Asset Naming -Recommended Location for Shahbaz Bhatti Park**

Contact: Peter Fay, City Clerk, Legislative Services,
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Report Number: Legislative Services-2020-174

Recommendations:

1. That the staff report titled Asset Naming - Recommended Location for Shahbaz Bhatti Park, to the City Council meeting of September 30, 2020, be received;
2. That the new park currently being constructed at Davenfield Circle (Davenfield Park) be named Shahbaz Bhatti Park; and
3. That, upon successful completion of the public commenting period, staff be directed to erect appropriate park signage and undertake notifications for addressing, mapping, operations and emergency services regarding the new park name.

Overview:

- **At its August 5, 2020 meeting, City Council approved the name Shahbaz Bhatti Park to commemorate his sacrifice promoting acceptance and tolerance for minority groups.**
- **The Wards 7 and 8 Reference Committee (comprised of Mayor Brown and Councillors Williams and Fortini) considered possible parks and recommended the naming of the Davenfield Park, currently under construction, to be named Shahbaz Bhatti Park. Staff are recommending the renaming as proposed by the Reference Committee.**
- **A 30-day public consultation commenting period will start in accordance with the City's Asset Naming Policy.**

Background:

In May 2019, Council established ward-specific Reference Groups to consider and make recommendations on City asset naming and renaming requests within the respective ward pairings:

Resolution C295-2020

1. That the report titled: Commemorative Naming Process and Update for City Facilities and Streets (R 323/2019 / RM 68/2019), to the Council Meeting of August 5, 2020, be received;
2. That the following names be approved and available for future use, as previously considered by Council, through the commemorative naming process for parks, in accordance with the Asset Naming Policy:
 - a. Shahbaz Bhatti Park;”

City staff reviewed options for candidate parks within Wards 7 and 8 for consideration by the Reference Committee. This report recommends a park naming based on the recommendation of the Wards 7 and 8 Reference Committee.

Current Situation:

An April 2019 Council meeting Announcement from Peter Bhatti, Chair, International Christian Voice, and brother of Shahbaz Bhatti, identified a request for a City park named after his deceased brother. Shahbaz Bhatti was the first Christian parliamentarian who served as the Federal Minister of Minorities Affairs in Pakistan. Bhatti was one of the founding members of the organization ‘All Pakistan Minorities Alliance’ (APMA) in 1985 and was considered a representative of the religious minorities in Pakistan. As federal minister, Bhatti took serious steps to ensure the safety, rights and empowerment of religious minorities while in office, until his assassination in 2011.

In August 2019, Mayor Brown announced a park in the City would be named Shahbaz Bhatti Park. Naming a City park as Shahbaz Bhatti Park contributes to the City’s rich cultural mosaic and commemorates acceptance and tolerance for minority groups within a diverse society such as Brampton. The recommended name of Shahbaz Bhatti Park is in keeping with the City’s Asset Naming policy.

The Council Reference Group met on September 16, 2020 to discuss potential locations in Ward 8 for a park to name Shahbaz Bhatti Park, as approved by City Council. Two parks were considered:

- Davenfield Park (new park under construction to be completed over the next several weeks and include trail connections)
- Midsummer Park (existing park named after adjacent street)

The consensus was to recommend naming the new Davenfield park as Shahbaz Bhatti Park for the following reasons:

- New park development preferred over renaming established park
- Links to trail amenities

Pending Council's decision, the renamed park will be available for a public commenting period of 30-days while the park construction is completed.

Corporate Implications:

Financial Implications:

None

Other Implications:

Term of Council Priorities:

Council Priority – Brampton is a Mosaic

This report achieves the Strong Communities priority by celebrating and recognizing Brampton's diversity.

Conclusion:

Naming Davenfield park as Shahbaz Bhatti Park fulfils Council's direction and contributes to the City's rich cultural mosaic and commemorates acceptance and tolerance for minority groups within a diverse society such as Brampton.

Authored by:

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Attachments: Appendix A - Map of Park Location and Park Development Photos