



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

15.

Naming Opportunity – Daniel Grafton Hill III

Date:	February 22, 2016
To:	Toronto Public Library Board
From:	City Librarian

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to update the Toronto Public Library Board on the progress with consultations on a naming opportunity to honour Daniel Grafton Hill III and to make recommendations about next steps. Staff will work with the Ontario Black History Society and the family of Daniel Grafton Hill III to identify a future opportunity for naming a branch after Daniel Grafton Hill III at an appropriate time in the branch planning process so that it can be considered in public consultation and effectively integrated into the project. The Board will be apprised of progress on this initiative, and a recommendation will come forward to the Board when a suitable opportunity has been identified.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Librarian recommends that the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. authorizes staff to work with the Ontario Black History Society and the family of Daniel Grafton Hill III to identify a future naming opportunity to recognize Daniel Grafton Hill III; and
2. requests staff to provide updates to the Toronto Public Library Board on this initiative at strategic intervals.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact resulting from this report.

The Director, Finance and Treasurer has reviewed this financial impact statement and is in agreement with it.

DECISION HISTORY

In June 2015, the Library received a request to consider the renaming of the Scarborough Civic Centre Branch for Daniel Grafton Hill III, and at the June 22, 2015 meeting the Board passed the following motions:

1. *receives the presentation from Samuel Getachew and Rosemary Sadlier, Ontario Black History Society regarding the renaming of the Scarborough Civic Centre Branch for information; and*
2. *requests staff to report to the Board on renaming of the Scarborough Civic Centre Branch or other suitable naming opportunities in consultation with Daniel Grafton Hill III's family.*

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Library Board's Naming Policy requires that names for library branches, programs, rooms and collections be approved by the Board, including honorary naming or naming with a gift.

The policy outlines the naming of branches will use the following priorities:

- the Library will give priority to naming its buildings after their geographic location, either the community or the street location where they are situated;
- alternatively, consideration will be given to naming, where appropriate, after the type of service or function offered at that branch;
- in exceptional circumstances, consideration will be given to naming a branch after an individual whose contribution to the Library or the City of Toronto, is well documented and is widely recognized and valued. At least two years shall have passed since the individual's death.

The policy sets out the guidelines for naming of rooms. The naming of rooms will be considered based on the following priorities:

- priority will be given to naming rooms after the branch where it is located together with the function of such a room, e.g. York Woods Theatre;
- alternatively, consideration may be given to naming of rooms after an individual whose contribution to the Library or the City of Toronto is well documented and is widely recognized and valued;
- consideration will also be given to naming a room in honour of a Toronto Public Library (TPL) Board member, TPL staff member or any individual who has made an exceptional contribution to TPL or to the City of Toronto, provided that at least two years have passed since the individual's death or their separation from the Library.

The Toronto Public Library Board approved the name of the Scarborough Civic Centre Branch in June 2012. The name reflects Toronto Public Library's Naming Policy and the long-established practice of naming of branches after their geographic location and the community served, with some exceptions over the years.

The Scarborough Civic Centre Branch name highlights its prominent place in the Scarborough community, the history of Scarborough and the transit stop to access the branch. The name was given to the branch, in the planning phase, and was included in communication and consultation with the Scarborough community throughout planning, construction and opening celebrations. Given the strong community connection with the name, renaming this branch requires careful consideration. The name also fulfills the Naming Policy and the long-established practice of naming of branches after their geographic location and the community served, with some limited exceptions prior to 1998.

COMMENTS

Staff have been in consultation with supporters of this proposal as well as community stakeholders.

There was general support for the recognition of Daniel Grafton Hill III and the history of the black community in Toronto and Ontario.

The local councillor was consulted regarding the proposal to re-name the Scarborough Civic Centre Branch. He indicated that the current branch name is appropriate and effective in raising the profile of Scarborough and the Scarborough Civic Centre. The preference is to retain the current branch name. To honor local residents with a strong Scarborough connection, the community has established the Scarborough Walk of Fame with annual honorees. If an honorary name were given to this branch, it should align with the practice of recognizing someone from the local community. Naming the meeting room to honour Daniel Grafton Hill III could be considered.

Another option would be to build the naming proposal into the consultation and building program from the beginning.

In consultation with Rosemary Sadlier and Samuel Getachew, it was established that while they were not interested in pursuing naming a room at the Scarborough Civic Centre Branch, they were supportive of introducing this naming opportunity into a future branch capital project and consultation process.

In consultation with the Hill family, Lawrence Hill expressed willingness to cooperate and assist on future potential naming opportunities to honour his father.

It is recommended that staff work with the Ontario Black History Society and the family of Daniel Grafton Hill III to identify a future naming opportunity at an appropriate time in the branch planning process so that it can be considered in public consultation and effectively integrated into the project. The Board will be apprised of progress on this initiative and a recommendation will come forward to the Board when a suitable opportunity has been identified.

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SIGNATURE

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