



## OTHER REPORT

Report Date: September 4, 2019  
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Meeting Date: October 1, 2019

TO: Vancouver City Council  
FROM: Civic Asset Naming Committee  
SUBJECT: Street Naming – New Public Street – Choy Yuen Crescent

### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the new public street which runs between West 41st Avenue and West 45th Avenue and as shown in heavy black outline on the graphic attached as Appendix A, be named “Choy Yuen Crescent”;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward the appropriate amendments to the Street Name By-law.

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report seeks Council approval of naming a new public street within the Oakridge development as “Choy Yuen Crescent.”

### **COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

Council uses the Street Name By-Law, No. 4054, to name and regulate public roads in the City of Vancouver. The Civic Asset Naming Committee was originally established by Council on February 29, 2012, and re-established on March 6, 2019. The Committee approves names to be added to the Names Reserve List based on input from staff regarding compliance with naming policies and guidelines and also recommends names to Council for new streets and roads, development areas, pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, and other City-owned assets and facilities (excluding Parks and Library assets).

## **CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

## **REPORT**

### ***Background/Context***

The Oakridge development presents an opportunity to name a new public street.

Choy Yuen is how Chinese market farmers, who were mostly from Zhongshan 中山 (Chungsan in Cantonese) county, would have referred to their operations. Chinese market gardens were an important food resource for the City of Vancouver, supplying the majority of fresh produce before the large scale importation of vegetables from international sources began in the 1960s.

Market gardens were found throughout the area that constitutes Vancouver today, including near what is now the Oakridge development. On the southern slope overlooking the Fraser River and at Musqueam, Chinese market gardens provided needed employment and contributed substantially to the city's economy. Many of our parks and school sites, Douglas Park and Sir Charles Tupper for instance, were former market gardens.

UBC Professor Henry Yu notes that many prominent Chinese Canadian families, such as the Louie family of IGA, London Drugs, and Le Kiu, for instance, were tied to the Zhongshan network of farmers and from that county themselves. Zhongshan migrants dominated market gardening networks all around the Pacific in Sydney, Australia; Stockton and San Francisco areas; Victoria, BC; and Hawaii.

Choy Yuen Crescent recalls the important contribution made by Chinese Canadians to the City of Vancouver and the long-standing relationship of mutual respect and collaboration with Musqueam (who were employed in the gardens on the reserve).

Staff have confirmed with E-Comm through VFRS that "Choy Yuen Crescent" presents no public safety risks and is not duplicated in the Lower Mainland. Every name considered by the Civic Asset Naming Committee is vetted through VFRS to ensure the name does not present a risk to public safety or the safety of emergency responders. Emergency dispatchers, receiving a majority of their calls from cell phones, most often do not have a caller's location displayed to them. They must then rely on a drop-down list of addresses based on the information relayed by the caller. As callers are often in distress, understanding them can be very difficult. For this reason VFRS will not support names, particularly for streets, that present any risk of the location being misunderstood in an emergency situation.

### ***Public/Civic Agency Input***

At a Special Meeting on July 29, 2019, the Civic Asset Naming Committee approved the name "Choy Yuen Crescent" for the street located between West 41st Avenue and West 45th Avenue.

***Implications/Related Issues/Risk***

***Financial***

There are no financial implications.

***CONCLUSION***

The Civic Asset Naming Committee recommends Council approve the name “Choy Yuen Crescent” for the new public street within the Oakridge Development.

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# PLAN TO ACCOMPANY A BY-LAW TO AMEND STREET NAME BY-LAW No. 4054.

DRAWING NOT TO SCALE

