September 13, 2020

Chair and Members of the
Civic Works Committee

Re: Street Renaming By-law, Policies and Guidelines

In support of the Municipal Council’s commitment to eradicate anti-Black, anti-Indigenous and people of colour oppression and to ensure that our own actions reflect our words, I bring this concern forward. After reviewing the City of London’s established street renaming By-law, Policies and Guidelines, consultation with several black community organizations and the Civic Administration, I am seeking support of the following recommendation:

That the following actions be taken with respect to street renaming:

a) the petition dated September 1, 2020 submitted by London resident Lyla Wheeler, regarding the renaming of “Plantation Road” BE RECEIVED; it being noted that the petition is available for viewing in the City Clerk’s Office;

b) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to undertake a review of City’s By-laws, Policies and Guidelines relating to street naming processes and approvals and report back on any recommended changes to the process(es) that would support and implement the City’s commitment to eradicate anti-Black, anti-Indigenous and people of colour oppression; it being noted that the report back is to include a review of the request set out in the petition noted in a) above, recognizing Historically, the word “Plantation” has a strong correlation to slavery, oppression and racism;

c) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to expand the established Municipal Addressing Advisory Group (M.A.A.G.) to include the City’s Diversity and Inclusion Specialist; and,

d) the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to establish a list of potential street names that are reflective of suggestions from the community reflecting the contribution London’s Historic Black Families (including those names provided for by the London Black History Coordinating Committee), Indigenous communities and people of colour; it being noted, the following letter of support pertaining to this motion BE RECEIVED:

- African Canadian Federation of London and Area (ACFOLA)

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Peloza
Councillor, Ward 12