Minutes - Executive Policy Committee – July 18, 2007

Minute No. 493
Report - Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development - July 13, 2007

Item No. 11 Street Name Change - Keewatin Street north of Santa Fe Drive to Doctor Jose Rizal Way
File SC-3.14(34)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendations of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee and submits the following to Council:

1. That the currently registered street name of the portion of Keewatin Street north of Santa Fe Drive be renamed "Doctor Jose Rizal Way".

2. That the Director of Planning, Property and Development be requested to provide the necessary legal description to the City Solicitor/Manager of Legal Services for the purpose of preparing a by-law.

3. That the City Solicitor/Manager of Legal Services be requested to prepare the necessary by-law for approval by Council for registration in the Winnipeg Land Titles Office and that the street name change become effective upon third reading.

4. That the City Solicitor/Manager of Legal Services, upon passage and adoption of the bylaw by Council, be authorized to publish the street name change in two daily newspapers having a general circulation throughout the City of Winnipeg.

5. That the City Clerk be requested, upon passage of the by-law, to provide the relevant Community Clerk with a copy of the by-law and this report for the purpose of changing all pertinent records and notifying all persons affected by the by-law.

6. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing, including the execution of any documents related thereto.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Swandel,

That the recommendations of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On July 13, 2007, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development concurred in the recommendation of the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 19, 2007, the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee passed the following motion, namely:

WHEREAS Winnipeg consists of approximately 50,000 Filipinos, a substantial number of whom live in the Point Douglas Ward near Keewatin and Inkster;

AND WHEREAS Doctor Jose Rizal was instrumental in the Philippines' Independence from Spain (June 12, 1898) and is internationally recognized as an ardent and peaceful advocate of Filipino culture, rights and freedoms;

AND WHEREAS the established and highly regarded Manitoba Chapter of the Knights of Rizal proposes to honour both Doctor Jose Rizal and the Philippine-Canadian community in Winnipeg;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Keewatin Street north of Santa Fe Drive be renamed Doctor Jose Rizal Way in honour of Doctor Jose Rizal and Philippine Independence,

and forwarded to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development.

Further on June 19, 2007, the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee received from Dr. Tom Colina, Chapter Commander, The Knights of Rizal, Winnipeg Chapter, Inc., a copy of his presentation and a biographical sketch of Jose Rizal.



The Knights of Rizal

Winnipeg Chapter, Inc.



"Non Omnis Moriar"

Dr. Jose Rizal
THE GREAT MALAY

Chartered under the Philippine Republic Act 646	Philippine–Canadian Centre of Manitoba 737 Keewatin Street Winnipeg, Manitoba R2X 3B9 (204) 775-4928	*A cultural, civic and patriotic, non-sectarian, non-partisan and non-profit organization*

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Sir Rod Cantiveros, KCR
PRO

May 1, 2007

The City of Winnipeg Council
C/o His Worship Mayor Sam Katz
City Hall, 510 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B9

Dear Members of Council:

Greetings from the Filipino community and the Winnipeg Chapter, Order of the Knights of Rizal!

The Order of the Knights of Rizal is an international organization, which was officially established by a statutory act of the Government of the Philippines on June 14, 1951, in order to propagate the memory and principles of Dr. Jose Rizal, the country's national hero. This non-profit, non-partisan, non-sectarian organization has spread in many countries, including Canada. The Regional Office is in Toronto, but it has a very energetic chapter here in Winnipeg.

On behalf of the Filipino community and the Knights of Rizal in Winnipeg, we are very pleased and honoured to request that a new street/avenue in the City be named after Dr. Rizal. We believe that naming a new street after him can be justified for several reasons.

1. Many streets are named after individuals who historically have made significant contributions to society or humankind. Dr. Rizal made a mark in history through his espousal of the dignity of peoples, particularly Filipinos, who were colonized by the Spaniards for 333 years. Through his writings and activities, he aroused the consciousness of the Filipino people and inspired them to work for independence. With him as their symbol and inspiration, Filipinos fought for their sovereignty and nearly succeeded, unfortunately only to be occupied by another colonial power, the United States of America.

2. Dr. Rizal's idea of respect for persons and its corollary, respect for the dignity of peoples, imply the fundamental principles of freedom, equality, justice, and well-being, all of which are principles that underlie the institutions and workings of Canadian society. Honouring Dr. Rizal in Canada is to recognize the universal Rizalian idea of respect for individuals and peoples, as well as its corollary fundamental principles.
3. Dr. Rizal has been honoured in other places; for example, the Government of Malaysia many years ago declared Dr. Jose Rizal as the Great Malayan.
4. Toronto has honoured Dr. Rizal by having a street named after him.
5. Winnipeg is one of the most diverse cities in Canada, and it is heartwarming that the City has welcomed many peoples from different cultural backgrounds and has recognized their contributions and heritages, in line with the policy of multiculturalism in this country. We in the Filipino community are happy that the City of Winnipeg has named one of its streets after the great East Indian hero, Mahatma Gandhi, who inspired the successful effort of East Indians to struggle for freedom in India. We trust that the Council of the City of Winnipeg will equally recognize Dr. Jose Rizal through a street name. Such recognition will not only signify the Council's acknowledgement of the presence of Filipinos in Winnipeg; it will also be much appreciated by the largest visible minority community in the City.

We trust that the Council of the City of Winnipeg will positively consider this request. We, together with the initiators of this project, Messrs. Felino de Jesus and Terry Duguid, will be very happy to appear before the Council to personally pursue our request, should that be necessary.

We can be reached in the following address: PCCM, 737 Keewatin St., Wpg., Mb., R2X 3B9, or through the phone at 633-9538 of Dr. Tom Colina.

Please receive our thanks and warmest best wishes.

Truly yours,

Dr. Tom Colina, KCR
Chapter Commander

Rev. Dr. Neil Parado, KCR
Area Commander, Western Canada

Dr. Romy Magsino, KGOR
Deputy Commander for Canada Region

Dr. Rolando D. Guzman, KGOR
Advisor for Canada Region.

Philippine Canadian Centre of Manitoba
737 Keewatin Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2X 3B9



Dr. Jose Rizal

The Knight of Rizal
Philippine Canadian Centre of Manitoba
737 Keewatin Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Dr. Jose Rizal being the national hero is a very important figure in Filipino culture, his values and ideals are the guiding principles that parents aspire for their children to be. In Winnipeg the Order of the Knights of Rizal keeps his memory alive by holding commemorations of his birth and the day of his martyrdom. We also encourage our youth to be the best person they can be and recognize their successes in school and community leadership, on a night devoted to them and their parents with scholarship awards and certificate of recognition that honours their accomplishments.

We would like to ask the City of Winnipeg to help us promote the value that the good doctor put on human rights, freedom, democracy and education by helping the Knights of Rizal Winnipeg Chapter keep his name prominent, in this case by renaming part of *a street* _____ to Dr. Jose Rizal Way, thank you very much.

Jose Rizal

A Biographical Sketch

JOSE RIZAL, the national hero of the Philippines and pride of the Malayan race, was born on June 19, 1861, in the town of Calamba, Laguna, Philippines. He was the seventh child in a family of 11 children (2 boys and 9 girls). Both his parents were educated and belonged to distinguished families.

His father, Francisco Mercado Rizal, an industrious farmer whom Rizal called "a model of fathers," came from Biñan, Laguna, Philippines; while his mother, Teodora Alonzo y Quintos, a highly cultured and accomplished woman whom Rizal called "loving and prudent mother," was born in Meisic, Sta. Cruz, Manila. At the age of 3, he learned the alphabet from his mother; at 5, while learning to read and write, he already showed inclinations to be an artist. He astounded his family and relatives by his pencil drawings and sketches and by his moldings of clay. At the age 8, he wrote a Tagalog poem, "Sa Aking Mga Kabata," the theme of which revolves on the love of one's language. In 1877, at the age of 16, he obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree with an average of "excellent" from the Ateneo Municipal de Manila, now Ateneo de Manila University. In the same year, he enrolled in Philosophy and Letters at the University of Santo Tomas, while at the same time took courses leading to the degree of surveyor and expert assessor at the Ateneo de Manila. He finished the latter course on March 21, 1877 and passed the Surveyor's examination on May 21, 1878; but because of his age of 17 a minor, he was not granted license to practice the profession until December 30, 1881. In 1878, he enrolled in medicine at the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines but had to stop in his studies when he felt that the Filipino students were being discriminated upon by their Dominican tutors. On May 3, 1882, he sailed for Spain where he continued his studies at the Universidad Central de Madrid, Spain. On June 21, 1884, at the age of 23, he was conferred the degree of Licentiate in Medicine and on June 19,1885, at the age of 24, he finished his course in Philosophy and Letters with a grade of "excellent."

Having traveled extensively in Europe, America and Asia, he mastered 22 languages. These include Arabic, Catalan, Chinese, English, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Malayan, Portuguese, Russian, Sanskrit, Spanish, Tagalog, and other Philippines native languages, and dialects. A versatile genius, he was an architect, artists, businessman, cartoonist, educator, economist, ethnologist, scientific farmer, historian, inventor, journalist, linguist, musician, mythologist, nationalist, naturalist, novelist, opthalmic surgeon, poet, propagandist, psychologist, scientist, sculptor, sociologist, and theologian. He was an expert swordsman and a good shot.

In the hope of securing political and social reforms for his country and at the same time educate his countrymen, Rizal, the greatest promoter of Filipino nationalism, published, while in Europe, several works with highly nationalistic and revolutionary tendencies. In March 1887, his daring book, *NOLI ME TANGERE*, a satirical novel exposing the arrogance and despotism of the Spanish clergy, was published in Berlin; in 1890 he reprinted in Paris, *Morga's SUCCESSOS DE LAS ISLAS FILIPINAS* with his annotations to prove that the Filipinos had a civilization worthy to be proud of even long before the Spaniards set foot on the Philippine soil; on September 18, 1891, *EL FILIBUSTERISMO*, his second novel and a sequel to the *NOLI ME TANGERE* and more revolutionary and tragic than the latter, was printed in Ghent, Belgium, because of his fearless exposures of the injustices committed by the civil and clerical officials, Rizal provoked the animosity of those in power. This led himself, his relatives and countrymen into trouble with the Spanish officials of the colony. As a consequence, he and those who had contacts with him were put under close scrutiny and surveillance; the authorities were not only finding faults but even

fabricating charges to pin him down. Thus, he was imprisoned in Fort Santiago from July 6, 1892 to July 15, 1892 on a charge that anti-friar pamphlets were found in the luggage of his sister Lucia who arrived with him from Hong Kong. He was sent into internal exile, while he was a political exile in Dapitan, he engaged in agriculture, fishing and business; he maintained and operated a hospital; he conducted classes, where he taught his pupils the English, Spanish languages and arts.

The sciences, vocational courses including agriculture, surveying, sculpturing, and painting, as well as the art of self defense; he did some researches and collected specimens; he entered into correspondence with renowned men of letters and sciences abroad; and with the help of his pupils, he constructed water irrigation system and a relief map of Mindanao - both considered remarkable engineering feats. His sincerity and friendliness won for him the trust and confidence of even those assigned to guard him; his good manners and warm personality were found irresistible by women of all races with whom he had personal contacts; his intelligence and humility gained for him the respect and admiration of prominent men of other nations; while his undaunted courage and determination to uplift the welfare of his people were feared by his enemies.

When the Philippine Revolution started on August 26, 1896, his enemies lost no time in pressing for his final demise. They were able to enlist witnesses that linked him with the revolt and these were never allowed to be confronted by him. Thus, from November 3, 1986, to the date of his execution, he was again committed into Fort Santiago. In his prison cell, he wrote an untitled poem, now known as *"Ultimo Adios"* or *"The Last Farewell"* which is considered a masterpiece and a living document expressing not only the hero's great love of country but also that of all Filipinos. After a mock trial, he was convicted of rebellion, sedition and of forming illegal association. In the cold morning of December 30, 1896, Rizal, a man whose 35 years of life had been packed with varied activities which proved that the Filipino has capacity to equal if not excel even beyond those who treat him as a slave, was executed by firing squad at Bagumbayan Field now called Rizal Park.

Foot Note

A man of considerable courage, intellect and love for human kind's democratic freedom, was a man before his time. He fought injustices and colonization by peaceful means, choosing to use his mighty pen over violence. Today he serves as role model of the highest order by Filipinos in the Philippines and Canada.