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**To: Chair and members of Community Planning, Regulation and Mobility Committee**

**From: Councillor Lisa Kearns**

**Seconded: Councillor Angelo Bentivegna**

**Cc: Tim Commisso**

**Date: November 18, 2020**

**Re: Veteran Square: Naming of the area around Burlington Cenotaph**

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Dear colleagues,

WHEREAS it is a shared understanding that most families in Burlington have or had Veterans in their families and that we honour those who gave us our freedom and built up this country;

AND WHEREAS the month of November is a time to honour those who have served Canada, past and present, in times of war, military conflict and peace; including November 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> as Veterans' Week and November 11<sup>th</sup> as Remembrance Day;

AND WHEREAS a cenotaph is an empty tomb or a monument erected in honour of a person or group of people whose remains are elsewhere. It can also be the initial tomb for a person who has since been reinterred elsewhere;

AND WHEREAS in 1922 the 'City of Burlington' erected the Great War Memorial on the south side of Water Street, dedicated by Governor General Lord Byng recognizing the names of Canadian soldiers and peacekeepers and in 1947 Burlington took over care of the cenotaph;

AND WHEREAS the area surrounding the cenotaph is oft used as a location for events of significance including Legion Week, First Poppy on the Mayor and Remembrance Day observance;

AND WHEREAS a certain degree of respect and appreciation paid by the community to Veterans and their families could be carried out every day through the recognized naming as "Veteran Square";

AND WHEREAS seventeen Vet Banners currently envelop this area to honour a specific service person with a connection to Burlington and includes their name, era served, branch of service, photograph and the name of the sponsor;

AND WHEREAS the community can be further served through use of this named area as a defined location for first responders more frequently gather or display their respects whilst bringing people together;

AND WHEREAS widespread support exists for this naming including but not limited to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 60, Halton Naval Veterans Association, The Burl-Oak Naval Veterans, 2379

RHLI Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps - Burlington Army Cadets, Ed Dorr, Past Chair  
Mundialization Committee, Michelle Lemaire, Principal of Burlington Central School, Doug Dicker,  
William Norman, Ed Moir, and City Staff engaged in this request;

AND WHEREAS there is no evidence of the area around the cenotaph having been formally named previously;

AND WHEREAS a formal request to name the area around the cenotaph was received by the Ward 2 Councillor's office on November 5<sup>th</sup> by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 60;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT Burlington Council:

- a) Name the area around the Burlington Cenotaph as "Veteran Square";
- b) Direct staff to erect signage in accordance with this naming;

AND THAT all residents have access to an area of significance to honour our veterans, peace keepers, and their families every day of the year.

Respectfully,

Councillor Lisa Kearns