

## **RELEVANT INFORMATION FOR COUNCIL**

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**FILE:** X005053 **DATE:** 18 November 2016  
**TO:** Lord Mayor and Councillors  
**FROM:** David Riordan, Director City Operations  
**THROUGH:** Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Information Relevant To Item 6.5 - Naming Proposal - Girard Plaza  
(Formerly Napoleon Plaza) - Post Exhibition - At Council - 21 November  
2016

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That the Lord Mayor and Councillors note the information contained in this memo.

### **Purpose**

Further information is provided for the information and guidance of Councillors relating to the naming proposal for Girard Plaza.

### **Background**

At the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee on 14 November 2016, a property owner and resident living near the plaza stated that he was unaware of the naming proposal and tabled a late submission in support of the original proposed name "Napoleon Plaza".

### **Public Consultation**

In determining the name for a public open space, the City follows the process recommended by the Geographical Names Board. Therefore, the process for naming public spaces generally proceeds as follows:

- (a) in-principle approval by Council of the proposed name;
- (b) public notification of the naming proposal with a minimum 28 day response time;
- (c) Council approval following community consultation;
- (d) assessment by the Geographical Names Board of New South Wales through its formal application process; and
- (e) approval by the Geographical Names Board and subsequent publication in the NSW Government Gazette.

For this proposal, following the resolution of Council of 27 June 2016, the proposed name "Napoleon Plaza" was exhibited for public comment for the minimum period of 28 days.

The naming proposal was exhibited for public comment in the national press and local press (The Sydney Morning Herald on 6 September 2016 and Sydney Central Courier on 7 September 2016), and public notices were prominently displayed at various locations within the plaza (refer image below).

The proposal was also exhibited at the One Stop Shop and online on the Sydney Your Say website and the City's Facebook page.

In light of the feedback received, the City will review its notification process to ensure that all local stakeholders, including businesses and residents, are aware of the City's place naming proposals.



### **Assessment of the late Submission in Support of the name “Napoleon Plaza”**

The submission, supporting the name “Napoleon Plaza” has been reviewed and considered as a late submission. A summary overview and the City's response is provided in Attachment A.

### **Summary of all Submissions Received**

In total, 16 written submissions were received, including the late submission, of which four were in support of the name Napoleon Plaza.

Of the submissions not in support, five submissions expressed preference for an unspecified indigenous name and one submission proposed the indigenous name “Patyegarang”. Other names suggested in submissions included: Nelson Plaza; Wellington Plaza; NKS Plaza; Paul Keating Plaza; and three submissions in support of Girard Plaza.

The support for “Napoleon Plaza” is balanced by the significant community opposition to naming the plaza after a foreign political figure with no direct connections to the site. The recommended name “Girard Plaza” has a direct connection with the site and maintains the historical association with the adjacent Napoleon Street.

Girard Plaza is also supported by the Barangaroo Delivery Authority, and Transport for NSW support either Napoleon Plaza or Girard Plaza.

It is recommended that Council approve the naming of the public open space “Girard Plaza” for the reasons set out in the report to Council.

### **Alternative Naming Proposal**

During the course of discussion on this item, Councillor Scott advised that, at the forthcoming meeting of Council, she would propose an alternative name, “Jessie Street Plaza”, for consideration.

It is noted that the proposed name “Jessie Street Plaza” would be inconsistent with the Geographic Names Board guidelines for the naming of public places, because it duplicates an existing nearby public open space – “Jessie Street Gardens”.

Jessie Street (1889-1970), was a noted feminist and international peace campaigner. In addition to being commemorated through the “Jessie Street Gardens” (located in Central Sydney on Loftus Street), a women’s library, located within the Ultimo Community Centre, is named the “Jessie Street National Women’s Library”.

### **David Riordan, Director City Operations**

Prepared by: Mark Driver, Parks and Recreation Planner

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### **Attachments**

Attachment A: Assessment of Late Submission

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approved

  
**Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer**

# **ATTACHMENT A**

**ASSESSMENT OF LATE SUBMISSION**

**Attachment A**  
**Assessment of Late Submission**

<b>Summary of Issue Raised</b>	<b>Response</b>
<p>Council should defer any decision and readvertise the proposal to allow consideration of new submissions now that the Plaza is open.</p>	<p>The proposal was exhibited for 28 days during which time public access was available through the plaza. A late joint submission from a property owner has been considered.</p> <p>The exhibition period generated 16 submissions (including the late submission) including significant opposition to the proposed name Napoleon Plaza.</p>
<p>A property owner submits that they are the closest stakeholders to the Plaza and as such their views should carry more weight than other submissions.</p>	<p>All submissions to the City regarding naming proposals for public places are treated and considered equally.</p>
<p>A small sample of 15 submissions, with just 3 in support of Girard Plaza should not be sufficient to change the originally proposed name "Napoleon Plaza".</p>	<p>The quantity of submissions varies and 15 submissions is not atypical for a naming proposal. The majority of submissions did not support Napoleon Plaza. The proposed name Napoleon Plaza also attracted negative comments on social media (which were not formally counted as submissions).</p>
<p>Napoleon Plaza is justified because of its close proximity and connection to Napoleon Street.</p>	<p>Napoleon Plaza was the originally proposed name for this reason. However, the proposal did not attract strong support.</p>
<p>The Napoleon name has been associated with the Plaza for 200 years.</p> <p>A two century heritage should not be so lightly discarded.</p> <p>The Napoleon Steps appear in mapping records and it is logical for them to open onto Napoleon Plaza.</p>	<p>The plaza has only recently been constructed. The Napoleon name is associated with the adjacent street and former lane at this site.</p> <p>The Napoleon name continues to be commemorated through the street name and the nearby Napoleon Bridge and Napoleon Steps.</p> <p>A number of steps in the City have formal names but there is no requirement for adjoining infrastructure to be similarly named.</p>
<p>The proposed "Girard Plaza" is out of local context (geographically) and it would not be as easy to find as Napoleon Plaza.</p>	<p>The proposed name "Girard" has direct historical associations to the site. The name "Girard Plaza" would feature on wayfinding signage and maps.</p>
<p>Napoleon has indirect connections to the site.</p>	<p>The proposed "Napoleon" name did not find wide support with the community.</p>
<p>Wayfinding to 1A Napoleon Street.</p>	<p>There are no proposal to extinguish the name Napoleon Street and no addresses will require changing.</p>
<p>It is common to see names of parks, plazas and public spaces named after the adjacent street for ease of wayfinding.</p>	<p>There is no local requirement for public spaces to be named after adjacent streets.</p>
<p>The \$6,000 cost to rate payers is a waste of money.</p>	<p>The naming of the plaza will incur a cost for wayfinding signage.</p>
<p>The vast majority of people are satisfied with the in-principle approved name "Napoleon Plaza".</p>	<p>Of the 16 submissions received, only four were in support of the proposal. The proposed in-principle name was exhibited for public comment to inform and guide Council in selecting a name for the site.</p>