

Service de la culture
Direction développement culturel
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Montréal (Québec) H3C 0G4

June 26, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Mr. James Demetrios Smirnios
Lawyer, Trade-mark, Industrial Design, and Copyright Agent
The Royal Bank of Canada Building
1 Place Ville-Marie, Suite 1615
Montréal, Québec H3B 2B6
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Ref. no.: DG-DM-CULT-20-688

RE: *May 19: Pontian Greek Genocide Remembrance Day 1915–23*

Dear Mr. Smirnios:

The mayor of Montréal has asked me to respond to your request expressed in the letter you addressed to her dated May 19, 2020. The letter concerned the addition of the mention “genocide of the Pontian Greeks” to the file for artist Francine Larivée’s work *La réparation*, dedicated to victims of genocides in the twentieth century, currently published on the Public Art Bureau’s website.

We would like you to know that the municipal administration is sensitive to the concerns of Montréal’s Greek community, and it is our pleasure to inform you that the Public Art Bureau will accede to your request. This step falls in line with decisions by the Municipal Council on May 15, 2017 (CM17 0577) and by the borough council of the LaSalle borough on April 3, 2019 (CA17 200161) to recognize “the Pontian Greek genocide in order to honour the memory of the men, women, and children who perished in this tragedy that took place between 1915 and 1923” and “designating May 19 as a day of commemoration of the Pontian Greek genocide, reminding us of the importance of the duty to remember and asking Montréalers to affirm their solidarity with citizens affected by this genocide and with the Greek community of Montréal”.

The City of Montréal plays an important role in transmission of the collective memory and is establishing a strategy of respectful and timely recognition whose traces bear witness to our experiences. This reflection on commemoration must acknowledge and highlight the contribution of different historical points of view to the formation of Montréal’s identity.

Therefore, the City of Montréal's Division du patrimoine is currently formulating an intervention framework for recognitions that will become a tool for analysis and management of requests related to various concerns, including those by citizens, inherent to the issues of commemoration, toponymy, acknowledgment, and identification. This framework should be submitted to a committee of experts this fall.

Thank you for your interest in the promotion of Montréal's artistic and commemorative heritage.

Sincerely,



Stéphanie Rose
Interim Division Chief
Équipements culturels et Bureau d'art public

cc: Dr. Theodore Halatsis, President, and Mr. George Manios, Executive Vice-president and Chair of the CHC Hellenic Genocide Committee (chcsecret@gmail.com);

Mr. Chrisostomos Perentes, Archon Aktouarios, President, Ecumenical Patriarchate Archons in Canada, Order of St. Paul the Apostle (cperentes@sasktel.net)