
City Council

MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

MM36.7	ACTION			Ward: All
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20th Anniversary of the Toronto Recognition of the Tiananmen Massacre - Councillor Vaughan, seconded by Councillor Lee

•This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair. Council has added this Motion to the agenda for debate.

Recommendations

Councillor Vaughan, seconded by Councillor Lee, recommends:

1. That City Council recognize the important work and advocacy of the Toronto Association for Democracy in China.
2. That City Council endorse the “Beijing Spring” events starting this Sunday, May 31, 2009, and ending on Thursday, June 4, 2009, with a “High Noon Bike-in and Die-In” at Nathan Phillips Square.

Summary

Twenty years ago this week, 30,000 citizens of Toronto gathered peacefully in Nathan Phillips Square to openly demonstrate and support the pro-democracy student protests in China. Led by the Toronto Association for Democracy in China, the organization formed at that time, Toronto citizens have come out year after year to commemorate the anniversary of the Tiananmen Massacre. The demonstrations and candlelight vigils held every year in Toronto are the largest in the world, outside of Hong Kong.

We are proud of what the citizens of Toronto have done and continue to do in the true spirit of democracy and advocacy for human rights by supporting the actions of the students in Beijing 20 years ago.

You will see that this year is no exception as our citizens once again will remember this “Beijing Spring” and its bloodied aftermath with a series of events.

(Submitted to City Council on May 25, 2009 as MM36.7)