

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Pantalone

Seconded by: Mayor Miller

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council mourn the loss and are deeply saddened by the passing of Kathleen Blinkhorn who died at home on December 6, 2009 at the age of 55 after a short and courageous battle with cancer.

Kathleen joined the City in March 2000 as the Social Housing Project Manager. In July 2001 she was promoted to Director of Social Housing, a position she held until June 2008. Kathleen led and was instrumental in the complex and challenging task of facilitating the transfer of social housing from the Province to the City and setting up the myriad of systems required for the City to take over the funding and administration of social housing.

Kathleen brought a passion, energy and love for social housing communities, and for the individuals and families they serve. She also brought hard work, humour and dedication to her job each day. She was especially proud of those who worked with her at the Social Housing Unit.

Kathleen was well known and highly regarded in the social housing sector having previously worked for and with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Province of Ontario, the Ontario Non-profit Housing Association and numerous non-profit and co-operative housing communities. She was an outstanding role model for women in the sector.

In June 2008, Kathleen was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister, Housing Division, at the Provincial Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. In her new role she was responsible for developing the Province's long-term affordable housing strategy, another challenge which she relished and championed but sadly was not able to complete.

Above all else, Kathleen was a devoted mother to her daughter Quinn and son Casey. As the youngest of eight children growing up in Massachusetts, Kathleen knew the importance of family and cherished it. Being a caring, loving mother to her children was her most treasured role.

Kathleen will be sorely missed by her many friends and colleagues in Shelter, Support and Housing Administration and other Divisions at the City with whom she worked.

She was a true champion of social housing needs in the Province. She cared deeply for this City and especially for those in need of our help.

Kathleen is survived by family members, her loving sisters (and spouses), Beth Place, Ann Blinkhorn and Rod Kesting, Judy and Basil Boutselis, Mary Phillips and their families.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Kathleen Blinkhorn's family.

December 8, 2009