



March 8, 2010

Naming Archbishop Romero Park

SUMMARY:

This motion seeks to rename a portion of SADRA Park (Ward 17 – Davenport) Archbishop Romero Park.

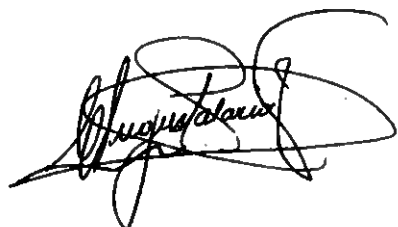
Archbishop Oscar Romero (1917-1980) was a bishop of the Roman Catholic Church in El Salvador. He was assassinated on March 24, 1980.

Archbishop Romero was a world-renowned advocate for human rights and the poor. In 1997, a cause for beautification and canonization into sainthood was opened for Archbishop Romero, and Pope John Paul II bestowed upon him the title of Servant of God. He is considered by some the unofficial patron saint of the Americas and El Salvador and is often referred to as "*San Romero*" by Catholics in El Salvador. Outside of Catholicism, Archbishop Romero is honored by other religious denominations of Christendom, including the Church of England through the Calendar in Common Worship. He is one of the ten 20th century martyrs who are depicted in statues above the Great West Door of Westminster Abbey in London.

SADRA Park is an acronym for the now defunct Silverthorn And District Ratepayers Association. Naming a significant park in honour of Archbishop Romero is a fitting tribute for a figure who was such a well-known and inspiring figure.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Etobicoke York Community Council endorse in principle the changing of the name of SADRA Park between Old Weston Road and Silverthorn Avenue to Archbishop Romero Park.
2. The Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation, Etobicoke York District be requested to consult with the local community on the feasibility of making the above noted change in naming at the earliest possible time.



Cesar Palacio, Councillor
Ward 17 Davenport