

## CONDOLENCE MOTION

**Moved by: Councillor Thompson**

**Seconded by: Councillor Ashton**

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Riyaz Kara on October 27, 2009.

Riyaz was born in Bukoba, Tanzania on June 3, 1966. He was an energetic high achiever from his youth, earning a Duke of Edinburgh Award silver recognition and graduating from the Moshi International School as valedictorian. After immigrating to Canada in 1984, he studied computer engineering and business management at McMaster University, graduating in 1990. He became a member of the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario in 1994.

An entrepreneur from his youth, Riyaz spent nights, weekends and school holidays working in family businesses in Tanzania and Toronto. In 1991, Riyaz and his brother purchased the Wexford Heights IDA Pharmacy. Over the years, Riyaz led the transformation of the pharmacy from a small local business into one of the strongest franchises in the owner operated Pharmasave chain, serving on Pharmasave governance boards and earning awards for Best Store Design and the title of vice chair of the chain's National Board of Directors. He was also a founding member of the Wexford Heights BIA and an enthusiastic supporter of cooperative business, community and social development activities throughout the Scarborough area.

Riyaz applied equal energy to his religious practices at the Thornhill Jafferi Islamic Centre and the 9000 Bathurst Street Islamic Centre. He served first as Deputy Speaker and then Speaker of his Mosque, and was instrumental in reforming its constitution. As a member of the technical committee, he helped develop and build a new, larger Mosque in Toronto, create a social centre for youth, construct low income housing in Vaughan and prepare the community for future growth.

Riyaz brought curiosity, intelligence, ingenuity and cheerful energy to every task he undertook. He constantly saw the good in others, and usually brought out their best. Despite the health challenges he faced over his last two years of life, he remained optimist and determined – an inspiration to others to the end.

Riyaz is survived by his wife Zahra, daughter Imaan and sons Muhammad and Hamza.

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

January 26, 2010