

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Chin Lee

Seconded by: Councillor John Filion

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Raphael Justin Kum-Ming Loh on Saturday, January 14, 2017 in North York, Ontario.

Raphael was born on April 9, 1985 in East York, Ontario and passed away at a young age of 31.

Raphael attended Brebeuf College High School in North York, the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) in English and Philosophy and then York University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Education.

Raphael was a long-term occasional teacher who dedicated himself to the students of the Toronto Catholic District School Board at Brebeuf College High School in North York, among others and lastly at St. John Paul II Catholic Secondary School on Military Trail in Scarborough. While he did not have a permanent contract, he invested himself so heavily in the school, his employment status was just a name. In his time at St. John Paul II Catholic Secondary School, he helped coach the boys' basketball team, co-ordinate the students' annual Camp Olympia Leadership Weekend and founded a comic book/anime appreciation club which really took off. He taught Resource which meant he worked with the most difficult students in their most difficult times and they loved him. They all loved him for his leadership, warmth and laughter.

Raphael's impact on the lives of everyone who knew him has been evident in the stories that have come forth about how he helped people. One time, he and his father, Joachim, sponsored students to go to Camp Olympia when they could not afford it. Another time, he made a beeline to a student who didn't seem to talk to anyone and gave her a comic he wanted her to read and invited her to the comic book club he started, to help her make friends.

Raphael is survived by his one and only love, his wife, Leena Chan, his father, Joachim Loh, a lawyer who has served the Toronto, Markham and Richmond Hill Chinese community for 32 years, his mother, Jenny Loh, retired, his sister, Victoria Loh, lawyer, his 5 year old nephew and Godson, Rhys Etherden, his in-laws Gin Yee Chan, My Thuyen Chan, his sister in law, Sarah Chan, and his brother-in-law Philip Chan.

Raphael learned from his father to do at least one good deed a day for 365 days a year. He must have done that and more as Raphael's good deeds have been the topic of conversation between the over 1,000 attendees at this funeral on Saturday January 21, 2017.

Five days after Raphael's death, someone broke into his father's car and stole many things,

including a camera with photos and videos of the family's last vacation together. The community came together and raised a combined total of over \$20,000.00 to support the family and the students of St. John Paul II Catholic Secondary School who cannot afford to go to Camp Olympia.

Raphael was special because he spent time to talk to people, really listen to them and find a way to motivate them, make them smile and feel at ease. He will be missed and is forever loved.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincerest sympathies to the Loh family.

February 15, 2017