

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Mike Colle

Seconded by: Councillor Josh Matlow

The Members of the Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Ronald "Jimmy" Ashford Wisdom on November 28, 2019 at the age of 72.

The loss of Jimmy Wisdom is a great loss for Toronto's Caribbean community and all of Toronto.

Known by his thousands of friends and admirers as "Wisdom" Jimmy was a uniquely talented musician and an active community leader and pioneer who constantly gave back to his community and helped many newcomers to Canada and the City of Toronto from his Barber's chair on Eglinton Avenue West for over 40 years.

In his time as an outstanding musician, Jimmy was part of a famous duo with Bob Williams performing with legends such as Bob Marley, Fats Domino, Jimmy Ruffin, Otis Redding, Solomon Burke and for many notable people including the former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

Later, Jimmy transitioned into a successful, 50-year career as a Barber, creating an iconic business on Eglinton West called "Wisdom's Barber Shop and Beauty Salon" with his wife, life partner and love of his life Merva, a childhood sweetheart to whom he was married for 37 years. Countless newcomers to Canada found Jimmy's barbershop as their home away from home and a place to share stories, give and take advice and nurture lifelong relationships, serving second and third generations of customers.

Jimmy Wisdom was a giant in Toronto's Jamaican community who brought people together and helped people of all walks of life through difficult and challenging times.

Jimmy Wisdom was much more than a Barber of which he was proud to be but he devoted his life to listening to people and mentoring those who called on him in times of trouble. Jimmy Wisdom was a true builder of the multicultural tapestry of our City, always positive and generous to a fault.

Jimmy's life was cut too short, as he passed away at Sunnybrook Hospital surrounded by his family and friends after a brief illness. Wisdom travelled the world and loved his home in "MO Bay", Jamaica but in Toronto in his Barber Shop he was most happy, and at home with the people he loved, the people of Toronto.

Jimmy will be deeply missed by the thousands of people he touched with his eternal smile and love of music and art.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Jimmy Wisdom's family including his wife Merva and children Ninfa, Ronald Jr., Ian, James and Nadine.

December 17, 2019