

## ***Expression of Condolence for Saleh Hafejee by Toronto City Council***

**Moved by: Councillor Paul Ainslie**

**Seconded by: Mayor John Tory**

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Saleh Hafejee on June 14, 2021.

It is with deep sorrow I share the sudden passing of a good friend and trailblazer within our Scarborough Muslim community.

Saleh was a true community leader, pioneer, and friend. He was a transformational leader at the Jame Abu Bakr Siddique (Scarborough Muslim Association), leading the Masjid through a period of tremendous growth, and increase in its stature, both in the community and across Toronto.

For 25 years, Saleh devoted his life to community services, uplifting and empowering local youth, and working across many community organizations to improve the lives of Muslim residents in Scarborough. He was an integral part of the Scarborough-Guildwood, in particular in the Markham and Lawrence community touching the lives of many residents alike, from youth to elders.

Saleh recognized the lack of sports programs in the Markham and Lawrence community and he took it upon himself to create a very successful ball hockey league, giving the youth in the community a safe space to play together and grow. Saleh worked tirelessly to support the local youth, and ensure they have opportunities to flourish and succeed.

According to the Islamic faith, “when a man dies, his deeds come to an end, except for three: A continuous charity, knowledge by which people derive benefit, and pious son who prays for him.” Saleh had devoted his entire life and worked tirelessly to build and enrich the lives of many youths, initiated many charity projects, and raised his sons Hafiz Abu Bakr, Mohammed, and daughter Maryam with piety and righteousness.

These are just some examples of the testament to his legacy. The Scarborough-Guildwood community has lost a powerful force and his passing will leave a void.

We wish many happy memories of Saleh's life be with his mother, Aisha Hafejee, wife, Fazila Hafejee, his sons, Hafiz Abu Bakr and Mohammed Hafejee, daughter, Maryam Hafejee, the entire Hafejee family and friends, and with time, overcome the sadness and pain his passing has caused. While we loved Saleh dearly, it is believed in our community whatever God takes away or gives belongs to Him. Everything has a fixed term in this world, so we must be patient and content. I hope everyone in our community find solace in the truth of faith in this difficult time.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincerest sympathy to Saleh's family, as well as the Scarborough-Guildwood community, where Saleh positively impacted the lives of so many.

July 15, 2021