Expression of Condolence for David Smiley by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Councillor Joe Cressy

Seconded by: Councillor Mike Layton

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of social justice champion and Toronto Islander David Smiley on November 8, 2021.

David loved to dance. He danced to the sparkle of possibilities: the possibilities of advancing social justice and building stronger communities.

As a photographer, David documented the long march of the women's movement, the struggle to build stronger unions, the dangers of Litton Industries cruise missile manufacturing, and the campaigns against the Toronto Island Airport. David also helped form the Toronto Island and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Friendship Group. He immersed himself in their history, ceremonies and natural medicines, and worked to create partnerships based on reconciliation.

David's dedicated and generous spirit drove him to volunteer service until the very end of his life, cycling sandwiches made by Toronto Islanders to Portland Place for the Spadina-Fort York Community Care Program.

David is dearly missed by his wife Ellen Vera Alen, son Eric, sisters Linda and Donna, niece Shannon Ieria, her partner, their daughters Sloan and Quinn, sister-in-law Joanne-Marie Alexander, niece Janet Allen Merrifield, her husband Jay, their children Troy and Zoe, and David's vast and diverse network of friends, as well as the Toronto Island and Ottawa Round Lake communities with whom he shared his life and generosity.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to the family of David Smiley.