

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Mayor Miller

Seconded by: Councillor Filion

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Sheela Basrur on June 2, 2008.

As the former Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Basrur was an exemplary voice for public health. She led the way on a number of diverse and critical measures to protect the health of the residents of Toronto. It was under her leadership that Toronto became one of the first Canadian cities to quantify the burden of illness related to air pollution and to have a comprehensive, municipal No-Smoking By-law.

The SARS outbreak in 2003 was a difficult time for the entire city. To those who were directly affected by the disease, Dr. Basrur's reassuring competence was noted throughout the world by politicians, the media and every panel, report and commission that followed the crisis. The 1,800 Toronto Public Health employees who were reassigned to deal with the outbreak worked continuously, emulating her commitment to ending the SARS outbreak and stopping the spread of illness.

Throughout Dr. Basrur's entire career she was a true city-builder, working and speaking for the poor and marginalized across Toronto. Her spirit of inclusiveness was truly inspiring and her dedication to the people of Toronto will never be forgotten.

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

June 23, 2008