CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by:        Councillor Adam Vaughan

Seconded by:     Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of James T. Lemon on January 31, 2012.

James "Jim" Lemon was a professor emeritus of geography at the University of Toronto.

Originally from West Lorne, Ontario, he received a BA from the University of Western Ontario (with the Gold Medal in Geography), an MA from Yale (in Divinity), and then a Masters and PhD (both in Geography) from the University of Wisconsin (1964). He came to the University of Toronto in 1967 after several years teaching at UCLA. Jim was a highly respected and often controversial scholar of historical and urban geography, a Guggenheim Fellow, a mentor for and friend of several generations of students and colleagues, in Canada and abroad. Through his research and teaching he influenced, indeed changed, many careers. He was awarded the CAG Award for Scholarly Distinction in Geography 1997.

In addition to numerous articles, he is the author Toronto since 1918: An Illustrated History (1986), a volume short-listed for the City of Toronto annual book award in 1986.

Jim was an active participant in progressive politics at all three levels of government, from the very local in the Annex, and as an elected trustee of the Toronto School Board, to provincial and federal politics. Jim served as chair of the Annex Residents Association and the Confederation of Resident and Ratepayer Associations which led the fight against the Spadina Expressway, and was a member of the Greater Toronto Area Task Force (the Golden Commission) in 1995.

Professor Lemon made important contributions to the early phases of programs in community development and interdisciplinary urban studies at the University of Toronto, notably through Innis College and the Centre for Urban and Community Studies. He was also a supporter of co-operative social enterprises in the broader urban community. Throughout his career Jim was a committed and energetic advocate for members of the community who faced social, economic and physical challenges.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to James T. Lemon's family.

February 6, 2012