TORONTO Member Motion

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM33.15	ACTION			Ward:All

Honouring Nelson Mandela - by Councillor Pam McConnell, seconded by Councillor Michael Thompson

**** Notice of this Motion has been given.***
**** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two thirds vote is required to waive referral.***

Recommendations

Councillor Pam McConnell, seconded by Councillor Michael Thompson, recommends that:

1. City Council support the United Nations declaration of Nelson Mandela International Day and facilitate the celebration of Nelson Mandela's life and legacy beginning with his birthday on July 18, 2013.

2. City Council support the Nelson Mandela Foundation call to commemorate this day by encouraging all Toronto residents to devote 67 minutes of time to helping others, in recognition of the 67 years Nelson Mandela devoted to public service.

3. City Council forward this Item to the Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and encourage all member municipalities and municipal associations to support and facilitate the celebration of Nelson Mandela International Day on July 18, 2013.

Summary

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Nelson Mandela has dedicated his life to social justice in South Africa and world-wide. He was imprisoned for twenty-seven years, from 1964 to 1991, in protest against apartheid and the South African government's abrogation of basic human rights. Upon his release, he became President of the African National Congress and successfully negotiated the abolition of apartheid, and the first multi-racial elections in 1994, following which he became South Africa's first black President.

As President, Nelson Mandela launched the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission to provide an investigation and account of human rights abuses, introduced a new constitution, and launched numerous reforms and policies for the benefit of all South African people. Among his significant contributions was the establishment of democratic, accountable, and effective local self-governance in South Africa. Local government became entrenched in the South African constitution and the Government of South Africa has provided significant

support over the years to their national association of municipalities, SALGA.

Toronto and Canada have a very deep connection to Nelson Mandela. In June 1991, following his release from prison, Nelson Mandela visited with Canadians speaking in the Canadian Parliament, with Torontonians, and with students at Central Technical Secondary School. In 1998, President Mandela returned to Toronto and spoke to 50,000 Canadian students and teachers at Sky Dome.

In 2001, in a special session of the House of Commons and the Senate, held at the Museum of Civilization, President Mandela was granted Honorary Canadian Citizenship, only the second to be so honoured. In November 2001, President Mandela attended the ceremony in Regent Park that renamed Park Public School the Nelson Mandela Park Public School.

All Canadian governments, since Prime Minister Diefenbaker, have supported the dismantlement of apartheid and the establishment of a free and democratic state in South Africa.

In November 2009, the United Nations General Assembly declared July 18 as Nelson Mandela International Day, in recognition of his profound contribution to the lives of all South Africans and to social justice. On the occasion of his 95th birthday on July 18, 2013, the Nelson Mandela Foundation is calling upon all people to volunteer 67 minutes, to commemorate his 67 years of public service.

(Submitted to City Council on May 7 and 8, 2013 as MM33.15)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM33.15
(http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-58054.pdf)