

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Peter Milczyn

Seconded by: Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Jessica Lynn Pessoa on Saturday, September 21, 2013. Jessica was the daughter of Lino and June Pessoa (Lino Pessoa is Manager of Litter Operations for the City of Toronto in the Solid Waste Management Services Division) and only sister of Kyle Pessoa.

Jessica was first diagnosed with Leukemia in December 2001 at the age of 15. She received radiation and chemotherapy treatment and went into remission. Jessica worked as an Emergency Medical Services dispatcher for the City of Toronto for two years.

In July 2008 at the age of 22 Jessica's Leukemia returned and she required a stem cell transplant in order to survive. No family member was a match, so the family turned to OneMatch, Canadian Blood Services' bone marrow donor registry, in the hopes of finding her a donor. A donor was found and the bone marrow transplant was successful and allowed Jessica to continue the struggle to beat this disease.

Jessica was determined and courageous in dealing with all the side effects of this battle, the countless procedures and surgeries and the many weeks spent in intensive care. During this time, Jessica became extremely motivated to help other people who were living with cancer. Through her fundraising efforts, selling wooden roses/flower arrangements and handmade jewelry, Jessica raised and donated thousands of dollars for cancer research.

In May 2013, Jessica was admitted to hospital where she fought her final valiant struggle with cancer. Her long and courageous battle ended on September 21, 2013 at the age of 27.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathies on the passing of Jessica Lynn Pessoa to her husband Lawrence and to her father, Lino Pessoa, mother June Pessoa, and brother Kyle Pessoa.

October 8, 2013