

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Mayor Rob Ford

Seconded by: Councillor Doug Ford

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Nelson Mandela on December 5, 2013.

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Nelson Mandela was a man of great humility and tremendous integrity who dedicated his life to social justice and reconciliation in South Africa and the world over. Mr. Mandela was steadfast in his commitment and pursuit of a world free from all forms of discrimination.

Born on July 18, 1918 in Mveso, Transkei, South Africa, Nelson Mandela became actively involved in the anti-apartheid movement in his 20s, joined the African National Congress in 1942 and for 20 years directed a campaign of peaceful, non-violent defiance against the South African government and its discriminatory policies.

Mr. Mandela was imprisoned for nearly 27 years for protesting apartheid and the 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 election in 1994, following which he became South Africa's first black president.

Toronto and Canada have a very deep connection to Nelson Mandela. In June 1990, following his release from prison, Mr. Mandela visited and addressed Parliament, an honourous and momentous occasion for Canadians. In 1998, Mr. Mandela returned to Toronto and spoke to 50,000 Canadian students and teachers at the Sky Dome. In 2001, in a special session of the House of Commons and the Senate, Nelson Mandela was granted Honorary Canadian Citizenship, only the second to be so honoured. That November, Mr. Mandela attended the ceremony in Regent Park that renamed Park Public School the Nelson Mandela Park Public School.

The world has lost a leader, a father, a politician and an outstanding and exemplary humanitarian who demonstrated to the world the extraordinary power of non-violence, tolerance and unwavering service to mankind. Mr. Mandela, Tata Mediba, as he is endearingly known to many, has left us a template of his legacy by which to honour and remember the principles he passionately exemplified.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the members of Toronto City Council, our deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences to Mr. Mandela's family.

December 16, 2013