

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM50.21	ACTION			Ward:All
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Ceremonial dedication of a street in honour of Nelson Mandela - by Councillor James Pasternak, seconded by Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor James Pasternak, seconded by Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon, recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the General Manager, Transportation Services to report back to City Council, through the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee, with a recommendation of a prominent street, or part thereof, to dedicate in honour of Nelson Mandela.

Summary

History will show that Nelson Mandela was a transformative figure, understanding that change in society must be driven by a revolution of forgiveness rather than the abyss of vengeance. He understood that the ideals of democracy must be achieved by nothing less than the equality of its citizens. And that a terrible past can be turned into a bright future.

Democratic societies worldwide are further strengthened by the great understanding that the resilience of cause – no matter how difficult and long - can produce remarkable outcomes. That political change can be driven by universal values rather than armed forces.

Nelson Mandela felt closeness to Toronto. He visited Toronto three times. The first time on June 19, 1990, was only a few short months after he had only been released from prison. Mr. Mandela came to thank the people of Toronto for their prayers and support during his 27 years of unjust incarceration.

In Mr. Mandela's own words to Torontonians "We thank you for refusing to forget us. We thank you for your tireless support. It is remarkable that so many of you could give up so much of your time to help the people separated from you by thousands of miles." On that occasion, Nelson Mandela was made an Honourary Citizen of the City of Toronto, an honour conferred on him by Toronto City Council.

In September 1998, he shared his message of respect and tolerance with 45,000 students and their teachers at Toronto's Sky Dome. It was called Mandela and the Children. On his last visit to Toronto in 2001, Nelson Mandela attended the renaming of Toronto's oldest public school after him, the Nelson Mandela Park Public School, and on the same day received an honorary doctorate from Ryerson University.

As Canada's largest and most diverse City, it is important that we give recognition to this iconic figure and honorary citizen of Canada, by taking a specific action to preserve his legacy in our City in a visible and tangible way.

With the 20th anniversary of Mr. Mandela's election as President of South Africa on April 27, 1994 approaching, it is a fitting time for the City of Toronto to dedicate a prominent street, or part thereof, in his honour. By doing so, Toronto will ensure that we will always cherish his legacy and remember South Africa's struggle for equality and justice. We will also recognize the positive impact our City and its residents can make around the world.

The people of Toronto joined the rest of the world in mourning the passing of Nelson Mandela on December 5, 2013.

(Submitted to City Council on April 1 and 2, 2014 as MM 50.21)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM50.21