

Submitted by Councillor Pasternak

Mandela Legacy Committee
18 Spadina Rd, Suite 300
Toronto, Ontario M5R 2S7

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SECRETARIAT 12 W

MM50.21.1

2014 MAR 31 AM 9 11

March 28, 2014

To: Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam
Ward 27, Toronto Centre- Rosedale

From: Lloyd McKell
Vice Chair and Executive Secretary
Mandela Legacy Committee, Toronto

Re: Street dedication in honour of Nelson Mandela

The Mandela legacy Committee is very pleased to learn of the motion of Councillor James Pasternak concerning the possible ceremonial dedication of a prominent Toronto Street in honour of Nelson Mandela. We wholeheartedly support such a motion.

The Mandela Legacy Committee, formerly the Honouring Mandela Committee, was formed prior to Nelson Mandela's passing in December 2013. Our committee is made up of community volunteers from various sectors including community, business, labour and education. Our mission is to work with individuals, groups and institutions to promote Mandela's vision of a democratic society, free from all forms of discrimination, where all people work together to build communities of peace, harmony and shared prosperity.

We think that Councillor Pasternak has done a great job in his motion, to provide a rationale for such an action, so we do not need to go over the same ground. Suffice it to say that we note with great pride, that in 1990 on the occasion of Mandela's first visit to Canada, Toronto Council conferred on him, the title of Honourary Citizen of Toronto, eleven years before the Federal Government bestowed on him the title of Honourary Citizen of Canada! Mandela's elegantly-framed Certificate of Toronto Citizenship hangs proudly today in his former residence in Soweto, South Africa, now converted into a museum (Mandela House) for all visitors to see.

We also note that in today's media, the suggestion that Queen Street West, bounded by Yonge Street to the east and University Avenue to the west, be a preferred site for such a dedication. Although we did not speak to the media about this, this suggestion emanated from our Committee. While we acknowledge that there may be other options worthy of this Mandela dedication, we believe the Queen Street West portion is preferred for the following reasons:

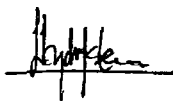
- a) Toronto City Hall sits in the middle of that section of Queen Street West. It befits the stature of Nelson Mandela, President and world famous icon, to be associated with a street on which our City's governance body sits;

- b) This section of Queen Street West is a popular location, well known to visitors as well as to citizens; it houses an exciting mix of outstanding businesses and public institutions, blending historic and modern edifices, bookended by two of the most impressive roadways in Toronto: Yonge St and University Avenue: a grandeur symbolizing the dynamic magnificence of Mandela's life;
- c) This section of Queen Street West contains a wonderful public square, Nathan Phillips Square, accessible by public transit and identifiable with those public spaces where, throughout his lifetime, Nelson Mandela addressed the people of South Africa, and people around the world, including here in Toronto;
- d) This section of Queen Street West has the capacity for tremendous aesthetic enhancement that would make it a tremendous source of citizen pride and a major attraction for tourists: suitably located benches inscribed with Mandela sayings, art work securely encased in durable glass, which would include images of Mandela and his life, excerpts of his speeches, and his visits to Toronto (a great curriculum walk-through for the school children of Toronto); a bronze statue of Mandela funded by private sponsors; and a selective placement of boulevard trees to soften the image of the street décor consistent with the warmth and humanity of Madiba himself.

Next year June 2015, will mark the 25th anniversary of Mandela's first visit to Canada and Toronto. The Mandela Legacy Committee envisions a glorious ribbon-cutting ceremony at that time to mark that anniversary, attended by dignitaries from South Africa, including Mandela's family, at the grand opening ceremony of Nelson Mandela Boulevard, Queen Street West, City of Toronto.

We count on your support as Councillor for the area, and on the support of your colleagues on Council, for this great opportunity for the City of Toronto, in honour of this beloved world hero, and citizen of Toronto, Nelson Mandela, who departed from us in December 2013.

Thank you.



Lloyd McKell

C: Mayor Rob Ford
Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly
Councillor James Pasternak
Council Mary-Margaret McMahon
Downtown Yonge BIA