

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor James Pasternak

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Norman Kelly

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Chana Szpilman Wallace on February 16, 2014 at the age of 106.

Chana Szpilman Wallace's remarkable perseverance throughout her life is proof of the endless strength of the human spirit.

After the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939, Ms. Wallace was one of thousands who were forced into labour camps. In 1944, Ms. Wallace was sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp and the following year, she was moved to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. She survived the camps until they were liberated by Canadian soldiers in 1945.

Ms. Wallace moved to Canada in 1948 and would run two businesses in North York with her husband. She lived in Toronto for the rest of her life.

Despite the unimaginable horror and trauma Ms. Wallace suffered through during the Holocaust, she chose faith, joy and gratitude over despair and anger. She strived to make the lives of her family and friends better and to cherish each day. She is a reminder to us all of the value of enduring hope and that even amidst the darkest days a brighter future is possible.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Chana Szpilman Wallace's family, the Spellmans and the Shifmans.

April 2, 2014