

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Norman Kelly

Seconded by: Councillor Michael Thompson

The Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Maya Angelou, poet, award-winning memoirist, writer and civil rights activist on May 28, 2014.

Born on April 4, 1928, in St. Louis, Missouri, Maya Angelou received several honours throughout her career, including two NAACP Image Awards in the outstanding literary nonfiction category in 2005 and 2009.

In the 1960's, Maya Angelou lived most of her years outside the United States. Upon her return, she wrote an enormously successful memoir about her childhood and young adult years, titled, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. It made literary history as the first nonfiction best-seller by an African-American woman and made her an international star.

In 1995, Maya Angelou was lauded for remaining on *The New York Times*' paperback nonfiction best-seller list for two years, the longest running record in the chart's history. Seeking new and creative challenges, she made her directorial debut in 1998 with the film, *Down in the Delta* and went on to write a number of inspirational works. She recited her poem, *On the Pulse of Morning*, at President Bill Clinton's inauguration in 1993. In 2003, Maya Angelou was the recipient of the Literarian Award, an honorary National Book Award for contributions to the literary community.

Maya Angelou will be greatly missed by all those whose lives she touched, inspired, shaped and changed. Her legacy will continue to strengthen generations to come.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Maya Angelou's family.

June 10, 2014