



CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: **Councillor Michael Thompson**

Seconded by: **Mayor John Tory**

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Harry Gairey Jr. on July 25, 2015 at the age of 85.

Mr. Gairey was born on August 6, 1930. He attended Lansdowne Public and Harbord Collegiate, where he excelled in sports and music, and completed his education by studying drafting and surveying at Ryerson College.

As a 15-year-old, Mr. Gairey played a central role in the struggle for racial equality in Toronto. When the young man was barred from skating at the Icelandia rink because of his race, Mr Gairey's father protested to City Council. This protest eventually led to the adoption of non-discrimination policies at all City recreation facilities two years later.

Marrying wife Sylvia in 1956, Mr. Gairey pursued a 35-year career at SNC-Lavalin, retiring in 1999. Mr. Gairey is most remembered for his passion for service to the community. He was a committed referee and respected member of the Metro Toronto Board of Approved Basketball Officials, an involvement that spanned nearly a half-century. In 2002, the "Harry Gairey Girls Invitational Basketball Tournament" was named in his honour.

As he approached retirement in the late 1990s, Mr. Gairey volunteered as a coach with Scarborough Thunder Football, where three of his grandsons played. He also became a dedicated practitioner and instructor of Tai Chi.

Mr. Gairey is survived by his daughter Brenda Gairey, his grandchildren Aaron, Justin, Lamont and Jenna Wiltshire and his great grandson Evan Wiltshire

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our deep gratitude for Mr. Gairey's contributions to our City, and our sincere sympathy to his family.

September 30, 2015