

City Council**Notice of Motion**

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| MM20.14 | ACTION | | | Ward:19 |
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Creation and Installation of a Plaque Commemorating The People's Champion - Muhammad Ali - by Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, recommends that:

1. City Council increase the approved 2016 Operating Budget for Heritage Toronto by \$3,250 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by Section 37 community benefits obtained in the development at 700 King Street West (Source Account: XR3026-3700113), for the production and installation of a plaque commemorating the life and career in Toronto of Muhammad Ali.
2. City Council direct that the funds be transferred to Heritage Toronto subject to the condition that the Historical Plaques Committee of Heritage Toronto approve of the plaque subject matter.

Summary

Heritage Toronto is working with local residents to commemorate Muhammad Ali's 1966 visit to Toronto, including his fight against George Chuvalo.

Muhammed Ali was one of the world's most celebrated athletes, best-known personalities, and influential civil rights activists. Ali's enduring fight against oppression and involvement in the black freedom struggle is part of what brought him to Toronto.

In March 1966, Ali was booked to fight Ernie Terrell in Chicago, but his controversial anti-war views and refusal to join the United States draft resulted in Chicago and every major United States boxing centre refusing to host the fight, forcing the organizers to move it to Toronto and arrange an alternative opponent - Canadian heavyweight champion, George Chuvalo.

Prior to the fight, Ali trained at Earl Sullivan's Toronto Athletic Club at 109 Ossington Avenue (the proposed location of the plaque) in front of hundreds of spectators while Chuvalo was based out of a boxing club on Lansdowne Avenue. While in Toronto, Ali also refereed a number of junior boxing matches. He eventually won the fight against Chuvalo before a full

house at Maple Leaf Gardens in a grueling 15 rounds that he later said was the toughest fight of his career.

The Toronto bout came at a critical time in Ali's career. The World Boxing Association had stripped him of his title for joining the Nation of Islam and Ali was facing intense criticism in the media for his conscientious objection to the Vietnam War. The plaque at 109 Ossington Avenue will explore the background to the fight and the reaction to Ali's visit in Toronto and Canada.

Section 37 funds have been secured and received in connection with the rezoning of 700 King Street West (Official Plan Amendment By-law 348-1994) for community services in Ward 19.

This Motion seeks authorization to amend the 2016 Operating Budget of Heritage Toronto to fund the creation and installation of a plaque commemorating Muhammad Ali's 1966 visit to Toronto, including his fight against George Chuvalo, at 109 Ossington Avenue. Heritage Toronto, which manages the municipal Historical Plaques Program, has estimated the entire project to cost \$6,500.

As Heritage Toronto is a directly funded City agency and not considered an "outside party", no undertaking is required to be signed by Heritage Toronto governing the use of the funds and financial reporting.

The recent passing of Muhammed Ali provides a timely occasion to commemorate his fight against Chuvalo and the reaction to his visit in Toronto and Canada.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM20.14