

**From:** [Councillor Karygiannis](#)  
**To:** [Councillors and Mayor; Marilyn Toft](#)  
**Cc:** [Council Executive Assistants; Council Administrative Assistants; Council Constituency Assistants](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Bill 79---Nanking Massacre Commemorative Day Dec. 13  
**Date:** Friday, December 9, 2016 6:09:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [image005.emz](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[Nanking Massacre Commemorative Day - City.pdf](#)  
[image001.emz](#)  
[image002.png](#)

Dear Colleague,

I am attaching an email below and a Letter of support for

### Notice of Motion

MM23.3	ACTION		Ward:All
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### City Council affirm its recognition of the Nanjing Massacre - by Councillor Jim Karygiannis, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

Your support for this motion will be greatly appreciated by all our Chinese Constituents.

A similar motion is already in consideration in the Provincial Government with Soo Wong's Bill receiving second reading well on it was to be recognized provincially in Ontario.

I am looking forward to speaking to you all individually on this matter. If you have any questions and or comments please contact me at [REDACTED].

Thank you in advance for your assistance and co-operation.

Regards,

Jim Karygiannis Councillor Ward 39

Scarborough-Agincourt

"Live-Love-Laugh"

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**From:** Joseph Wong [mailto:joseph.wong1@alphaeducation.org]

**Sent:** Friday, December 9, 2016 2:44 PM

**To:** info@alphaeducation.org

**Subject:** Bill 79---Nanking Massacre Commemorative Day Dec. 13



To Whom It May Concern,

The Nanjing Massacre was, without a doubt, one of the most horrific atrocities of the modern era. In a span of 6 short weeks, beginning on December 13, 1937, the Japanese Imperial Army rained death and destruction upon the people of Nanjing (called "Nanking" at the time). According to the judgment of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, over 200,000 civilians and soldiers alike were slaughtered, tens of thousands of innocent women – some mere girls – were brutally and repeatedly

raped, and entire city blocks were burned to the ground. The city, its people, and the world itself could never be the same after this unthinkable series of war crimes.

17<sup>th</sup> Century political philosopher and jurist, Samuel von Pufendorf, whose ideas influenced generations of political theorists and advocates for justice, once wrote, “More inhumanity has been done by man himself than any other of nature’s causes.” Although regional in scope, the horrors of the Nanjing Massacre extend far beyond the boundaries of this city, far beyond the borders of China, far beyond relations between China and Japan. Indeed, this massacre has important lessons for all of humanity. It reminds us all that humans are all too capable of cruelty, that “man’s inhumanity to man” is ever lingering on our historical horizons, that we must never forget that we, too, may one day be victims or aggressors in similar attacks. The members of the Japanese Imperial Army who committed these acts were not exceptional, they were not inhuman, they were not monsters. They were, in fact, all too human. To think that we are immune or protected from such tendencies is not only erroneous, it is dangerous. Forgetting history and denying the capacity humans sadly bear for the monstrous is the surest way to ensure such actions are repeated in the present or future.

The victims and survivors of this massacre are yet to feel the full scope of justice. There are some in Japan who would deny that these acts ever took place, despite a wealth of evidence, including eye-witness testimony from the Westerners who established an International Safety Zone in Nanjing, taking in thousands of refugees and trying – sometimes in vain – to save them from this fate. These Westerners wrote daily accounts of atrocities, sending these to Japanese military leaders, begging in desperation that the slaughter, raping, and burning cease. We have these letters, as well as several of the personal diaries of these brave individuals. Through them, we often get an hour-by-hour report of the events of the Nanjing Massacre. There is no serious historian in the world who takes seriously the claim that the massacre is a fabrication. Yet, the fact that there are those who suggest this at all illustrates why a show of support is so critically important. If we do not work against such tendencies, we risk burying this history; burying history ultimately allows that history to re-animate, zombie-like, spreading the infection of inhumanity and allowing it to flourish once again. We cannot and must not allow this to happen.

It is because of this awareness of history, and a deep need to ensure that it does not repeat itself, that I whole-heartedly support the recognition of the Nanjing Massacre in the City of Toronto. With Toronto’s large Asian – and particularly Chinese – population, there are residents in this city who were directly affected by the events of 1937-1938. Some are survivors themselves; others lost parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, family friends. Moreover, while there is great awareness of the Second World War in a European and North American context, many Canadians and Torontonians know virtually nothing about the Second World War in an Asian context, including the Nanjing Massacre, which is considered one of the early events in this global conflict. This lack of awareness contributes to the injustices done, and to the threat of losing this history. An official recognition of this event will contribute immensely to a greater understanding of the Second World War among Torontonians and Canadians. As legislation moves forward for an official day of commemoration of the Nanjing Massacre at the provincial level, with MPP Soo Wong’s bill (“Nanjing Massacre Day of Commemoration Act, 2016) passing its second reading with unanimous and passionate consent among all three parties, the City of Toronto should take the lead in supporting such efforts, showing its Asian and Chinese communities that we, as a city, support them and believe in securing justice for them, at long last, and showing our strong commitment to ensuring that such inhumanity stops with us. With this, I offer my full support of the motion being forwarded by City Councillor Jim Karygiannis.

In the spirit of peace, justice, and reconciliation,



**Dr. Joseph Y.K. Wong**

C. M., M.D., D. Sc. (Hon.)

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