

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: **Councillor Josh Colle**

Seconded by: **Councillor Joe Mihevc**

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Joseph Abraham Gordon, better known as Lord Tanamo, on April 19, 2016 at the age of 81.

As a legendary Jamaican singer and songwriter, Joseph's interest in music began at an early age, singing calypsos and performing on both street corners and grand hotels in the early 1950's. In the early 1960's Joseph played a fundamental role in helping to create the sound we know as ska, combining calypso and mento rhythms that had influenced him during childhood. Joseph was also a pivotal member of the legendary ska band, The Skatalites who credit him for naming the group which is best known for performing awarding winning songs like, "I'm in the Mood for Ska" and "Come Down".

Joseph was among the first Jamaican musicians to immigrate to Toronto, where he married and opened the Record Nook, the City's first record shop specializing in and selling Caribbean music after falling in love with the multicultural atmosphere the City had to offer. Joseph was a successful performer in Toronto, keeping the calypso and mento beat alive with reggae covers like "Rainy Night in Georgia", which was the number one hit in Jamaica for seven weeks.

As a well-known artist on Eglinton Avenue West, Little Jamaica resident and artist, Joseph also helped to inspire Reggae Lane, a collaborative project that transformed an under-appreciated public space into a celebrated cultural landmark. Joseph maintained a notable presence in Toronto, performing as part of the 'Legends of The Ska' concerts in 2002, where his performances were recorded and released into a film in 2014.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Joseph Gordon's family and friends.

May 3, 2016