

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor Cesar Palacio

Seconded by: Mayor John Tory

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Don Panos who passed away on July 12, 2016, at the age of 72.

Don was an instrumental figure in Toronto's Business Improvement Areas (BIAs). Don was a founding member of the St. Clair Gardens BIA which was formed in 1985 and served on its Board as Chair for most of those years. As owner and operator of Don's Meats (a well-known business in the area since the early 1970's) Don offered a no-nonsense, small business perspective on BIA issues. The growth of his enterprise and its prospects for the future resulted from its innovative techniques, excellent customer service, good marketing strategies, employment creation, community involvement and participation in business and social activities. In addition to his many years of service to his own local BIA, Don also served on the Board of TABIA and served on their Tax Committee.

As the local City Councillor, I was fortunate to work alongside Don Panos over the years, and in many ways he was my inspiration and strength. His involvement within the Davenport community, in terms of community development and crime prevention has been an inspiration. His individual approach to help those most in need and his willingness to go the extra mile will always be remembered. For countless years, Don worked in partnership with the New Born Church of God G.O.T. in donating food during the weekly soup kitchen service that provided a freshly cooked meal for those most vulnerable members of society. It is a legacy that will never be forgotten within this great community of Davenport.

Everywhere you look you can see Don's tremendous influence; in the friendship and cooperation between the businesses and local residents that led to the revitalization, beautification, and continued gentrification of St. Clair Avenue West, in the community hub of St. Clair Gardens Parkette where once there were desolate patches of weeds and it was used as an illegal dumping ground, and in the flower baskets with seasonal flowers and greenery that hang along St. Clair Avenue West that enhance our streetscape and public realm.

Don's constant initiatives on behalf of the local community are extensive, but he never called attention to himself. It is truly unusual these days to see someone so committed to making a community all that it can be. Don Panos had become the soul of the St. Clair Gardens Business Improvement Area that made life better for all of those who had the privilege of knowing him.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to the family of Don Panos.

July 13, 2016