

## CONDOLENCE MOTION

**Moved by: Councillor James Pasternak**

**Seconded by: Councillor Josh Colle**

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Alexander Levin on June 14, 2016.

Born in 1932 in Rokitno, Poland, Mr. Levin was 7 years old when the Second World War began. On August 26, 1942, the Nazis ordered every Jewish person in Rokitno to gather. When a woman alerted the crowd that officers were coming to kill them, everyone fled for their lives as the Nazis started firing. Mr. Levin and his 17 year-old brother Samuel ran into the woods. They would never see their parents or younger brother again.

Alexander Levin and his brother would live in the woods until January 1944 when Rokitno was liberated by the Russian army. He was taken in by the army as an orphan and would assist in the pharmacy and mailroom. Alexander Levin would eventually move to Moscow and attend a military school. In 1975, he immigrated to Toronto and would be joined by his wife and daughter five years later.

Alexander Levin would speak to thousands of students each year on his story of survival. He worked to ensure that every new generation would never forget the horrors of the Holocaust. His autobiography "Under the Yellow and Red Stars" was published as part of the Azrieli Foundation's series of Holocaust survivor memoirs. A copy has been provided to all Members of Council.

Alexander Levin will be fondly remembered by his wife Marina, daughter Yelena and her husband Jack and his grandchildren Jonathan and Michaela.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Alexander Levin's family.

July 13, 2016