

## City Council

### Notice of Motion

MM29.3	ACTION			Ward:27
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**Requesting Permission for an open flame as part of the Sunrise Ceremony on Nathan Phillips Square - 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 Toronto and East York Community Council. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

*\* This Motion has been deemed urgent.*

### Recommendations

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

1. City Council grant permission to the Director, Equity, Diversity and Human Rights to use open flame on Nathan Phillips Square as part of the Sunrise Ceremony on June 21, 2017 (National Aboriginal Day), contingent upon satisfying any conditions placed by the Fire Marshal.

### Summary

Municipal Code Chapter 237 “Nathan Phillips Square” prohibits any person from lighting a fire on the Square.

The Sunrise Ceremony on National Aboriginal Day (June 21, 2017) requires the use of an open flame as is traditional for a ceremony such as this. As part of the ceremonial practice there will be a lighting of the fire by the Ceremony Conductor and his Helpers (Oshkabewis) who will also be responsible for letting it burn out. A contained fire bowl will be provided.

The Sacred Fire is a key part of traditional Aboriginal practice and protocol. The Sacred Fire is also the place where medicines are placed before, during or after the ceremony. This component is part of the spiritual connection and practice and an important part of the Sunrise Ceremony. Its incorporation in this event shows respect for Indigenous tradition.

The City of Toronto wishes to honour the First Peoples of Toronto and their traditional protocols on National Aboriginal Day. On June 21, 2017 the City will host a Sunrise Ceremony on Nathan Phillips Square as well as commemorate the permanent raising of the flags of Indigenous peoples to implement Council's decision on Item EX18.19.

This Motion is urgent because the date of the event is fast approaching (June 21, 2017) and

staff are working on the plan for the event with stakeholders in order to respect Aboriginal tradition.

**Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM29.3