

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM41.4	ACTION			Ward:27
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Requesting Permission for an open flame as part of the Sunrise Ceremonies 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.*

Recommendations

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

1. City Council grant permission to the Director, Equality, Diversity and Human Rights to use open flame on Nathan Phillips Square as part of the Sunrise Ceremony each year on June 21st (National Aboriginal/Indigenous Persons 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/National Indigenous Persons Day (June 21st each year) requires the use of an open flame to honour the tradition of this ceremony. As part of the ceremonial practice, there will be a lighting of the sacred fire by the Ceremony Conductor and Helpers, 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 is 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 traditions on National Aboriginal Day. On June 21st each year, the City hosts a Sunrise Ceremony on Nathan Phillips Square.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM41.4