

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: **Councillor Paula Fletcher**

Seconded by: **Councillor Ana Bailão**

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Pat Chastang on April 19, 2019.

Pat was a political activist who spent her life working in public service in her adopted home of Toronto as well as in the US, her home country.

One of eight children, Pat was born in Los Angeles, California and graduated from St. Mary's Academy in 1980 before heading out to save the world. After a short stint in Portland, Oregon, Pat joined Greenpeace in Vancouver, British Columbia where she trained a new generation of political activists to campaign in smart and compassionate ways. A few years later Pat brought her enthusiasm to Toronto to start the City's first Greenpeace office in a church basement.

Pat moved to Laos, in Southeast Asia in 1995 and spent five years teaching English to the children of Laotian diplomats before resuming her political passions back in her adopted home of Toronto.

In 2003 Pat volunteered on the successful campaign to elect Jack Layton the leader of the NDP. This led her to City Hall where she worked as a constituency assistant in the office of Councillor Paula Fletcher and then Councillor Adam Giambrone. Pat is remembered fondly by City and Council staff for her dedication and attentiveness to the work she loved. She worked tirelessly to bring Toronto's diverse communities together, and she developed a reputation as a trusted bridge-builder and an effective political strategist.

Pat also served as a spokesperson for Service Employees International Union-Canada (SEIU-Canada). She worked on dozens of campaigns despite the fact that she wasn't a Canadian citizen and couldn't vote for the people she worked to elect.

In 2014 Pat moved to Bowie, Maryland and worked with several local politicians including Maryland State Senator Victor Ramirez. She organized a rally in support of Ramirez's Bill tightening Maryland gun laws and coordinated his campaign for Maryland State's Attorney in 2018.

Toronto and Canada have lost a warrior for social justice and Pat's family has lost a devoted and loving sister, aunt and cousin. A whole community has lost a loving friend.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere condolences to the family of Patricia Elizabeth Chastang.

May 15, 2019