

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Mayor John Tory

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Michael Thompson

The Mayor and Members of Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Salome Bey on August 8, 2020.

The iconic jazz, blues and R&B singer and actress was born in New Jersey and began her career with her siblings as part of a jazz trio called Andy & The Bey Sisters.

Music wholly shaped the course of Salome's life. While searching for a jazz drummer, she met her late husband Howard Berkeley Matthews at the First Floor Club, an after-hours club he founded in Toronto.

After moving to Toronto in 1964, Salome married Howard. Together they raised three children - son Marcus and two daughters, both singers - Saidah Baba Talibah (SATE) and singer/performance artist Jacintha Tuku Matthews. Their home and the restaurant they owned, The Underground Railroad, were gathering hubs for the city's Black community, the entertainment industry and many international stars who came to town, including BB King.

Howard managed Salome's solo career while she performed extensively across the country and beyond, earning her the title "Canada's First Lady of the Blues."

Salome was also heavily involved in theatre, in both New York and Toronto. She earned numerous awards for her acting and musical talents, including a Grammy nomination for best cast album as the lead in the production *Your Arms Too Short to Box with God*, a Dora Mavor Moore award for her production *Indigo*, and a Toronto Arts Award in 1991. She was inducted as an honorary member to the Order of Canada in 2005 and was awarded a Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

Throughout her long and celebrated artistic career, Salome Bey was also revered as a champion of gender equality and racial equity. Her legacy lives on through her music, her children, and the achievements of the many artists she inspired and mentored.

The City Clerk is asked to convey, on behalf of Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Salome's children, her family members, friends, colleagues and all those whose lives she touched.

September 30, 2020