

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM41.2	ACTION			Ward: 16
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Renaming Underhill Park - by Deputy Mayor Denzil Minnan-Wong, seconded by Mayor John Tory

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the North York Community Council. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Deputy Mayor Denzil Minnan-Wong, seconded by Mayor John Tory, recommends that:

1. Despite the previous moratorium on the naming and renaming of civic properties, City Council approve the renaming of Underhill Park to Dr. Daniel Hill Park and the placement of a plaque in the park to commemorate Dr. Daniel Hill and his contributions to the City of Toronto.

Summary

Dr. Daniel Hill is a man of extraordinary accomplishments. An immigrant from the United States, Dr. Hill settled in Toronto and made Don Mills his home, residing around the corner from Underhill Park. He and his wife Donna moved to Don Mills in 1962 where they raised three children, Daniel, Lawrence and Karen.

His many accomplishments include being the first Director on the Ontario Human Rights Commission (including being appointed as Chair in 1971), the Provincial Ombudsman from 1984-1989, the author of *The Freedom Seekers: Blacks in Early Canada* and the founder of the Ontario Black History Society.

Pursuant to the advice of City staff, Underhill Park is scheduled to have a new playground installed by June 2022. This would be an ideal time to initiate the renaming.

In order to meet this schedule, local schools and residents have been contacted and consulted. They are supportive of renaming the park after a resident who has made such an important contribution to the community, the City of Toronto and the Province of Ontario. Renaming the park after Dr. Hill is also in alignment with the City's draft guiding principles for commemoration by sharing the story of a prominent Black Torontonian and celebrating the City's diversity.

Staff have advised that this naming is considered to be of City-wide significance and accordingly is being submitted to City Council for approval.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM41.2

