

***Expression of Condolence by Toronto City Council
For Hubert Owen Leach***

Moved by: Councillor Mike Colle

Seconded by: Councillor Michael Thompson

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Hubert Owen Leach on February 3, 2022 at the age of 85.

Owen will be fondly remembered for being selfless, loyal, scholarly, and a community-builder and a fighter, standing up for equality and social justice. Owen became known as a community activist leader and was a founding organizer of the anti-apartheid movement in Toronto. In 1989, Owen joined with other community advocates at Queen's Park when the Black Action Defense Committee worked with David Peterson, then Premier of Ontario, to initiate civilian oversight of police in Ontario, a first in Canada.

Owen played an instrumental role in pioneering groups and organizations such as the Black Action Defence Committee in 1988, along with Dudley Laws, Charles Roach, Lennox Farrell, and Sherona Hall. The Black Action Defence Committee is credited for shining a spotlight on the treatment of Black community members under the police and justice system at the time, and was instrumental in the creation of Ontario's Special Investigations Unit ushering in accountability. Owen was also an active member of the Organization of Parents of Black Children, supporting Black families and working to address Anti-Black Racism, as well as the Caribbean Cultural Committee that organized Caribana, the City's legendary festival celebrating Caribbean culture.

Owen was truly an inspirational person, so passionate about devoting his life to being a voice to bring about change. Owen's legacy will live on.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Owen's family.

February 17, 2022