

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM12.14	ACTION			Ward: All
---------	--------	--	--	-----------

Leveraging the Power of Interfaith Harmony Week in Toronto February 1 to 7, 2024 - by Councillor James Pasternak, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor James Pasternak, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle, recommends that:

1. City Council request the City Manager, the City Clerk and the Chief People Officer to develop a Councillor toolkit for event planning and engagement related to the United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week 2024, taking place from February 1 to 7, 2024.

Summary

World Interfaith Harmony Week is an annual event observed during the first week of February, after United Nations General Assembly designation in 2010. The General Assembly pointed out that "mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace and established World Interfaith Harmony Week as a way to promote harmony between all people regardless of their faith."

All around the world, organizations and individuals host events during the first week of February to help neighbours of different faiths get to know each other and build a foundation for more peaceful and friendly communities.

Recognizing the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people, the General Assembly encourages all member States to spread the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in the world's churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship during that week, on a voluntary basis and according to their own religious traditions or convictions.

According to the Parliament of World Religions, "all around the world, organizations and individuals host events during the first week of February to help neighbors of different faiths get to know each other and build a foundation for more peaceful and friendly communities. World Interfaith Harmony Week encourages grassroots events that link people together in a global wave of understanding, respect, and action."

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM12.14

