

Expression of Condolence for Beverley Salmon by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Mayor Olivia Chow

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Jennifer McKelvie

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Beverley Salmon (née Bell), CC, OOnt, former North York City Councillor and Metro Toronto Councillor, who passed away on July 6, at the age of 92.

Beverley was born in Toronto in 1930. She studied nursing at the Wellesley Hospital, earning a certificate in public health nursing from the University of Toronto. She completed her nursing training in Detroit, Michigan and began her career there. After becoming inspired by the Civil Rights Movement and its leaders, Beverley returned to Toronto and became active in her community.

She was first elected to North York City Council in 1985, serving on North York City Council representing Ward 8, for a total of two terms until 1988. In 1988, she was elected to represent North York Centre South as a member of Metro Toronto Council serving another two terms until 1997. Beverley was the first Black woman elected to Municipal Council in Toronto. Her first motion helped change the title of City "Alderman" to "Councillor." She also served on the Board of the Toronto Transit Commission from 1989 to 1994, serving as the board's Vice-Chair from 1991 to 1994.

Beverley Salmon was the first Black woman to serve on the Ontario Human Rights Commission. She also co-founded the Urban Alliance on Race Relations. As a result of her trailblazing career and advocacy, Beverley was the recipient of many awards and honours including being appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada in 2017, receiving the Order of Ontario in 2016, and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012, among other accolades.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Beverley's children, Warren, Heather (Donald), and Leslie (Jeffrey); her grandchildren, Caitlyn, Shakarri, Tyler, Jordan, and Sierra; her sister, Marjorie Sorrell, as well as her extended family; and to all those whose lives she touched through her work.

July 19, 2023