



## TRANSMITTAL FROM CITY COUNCIL

### **Confronting the Legacy of the Transatlantic Slave Trade: Renaming Civic Assets Bearing the Henry Dundas Name - by Councillor Chris Moise, seconded by Mayor Olivia Chow**

**Date:** January 16, 2024

**To:** Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee

**From:** City Council

**Wards:** All

### **Summary**

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City Council on December 13, 14 and 15, 2023, in adopting Item [MM13.29](#), headed "Confronting the Legacy of the Transatlantic Slave Trade: Renaming Civic Assets Bearing the Henry Dundas Name - by Councillor Chris Moise, seconded by Mayor Olivia Chow", adopted the following:

1. City Council request the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee to include among other candidates, as part of any future consultation to consider honouring and naming City of Toronto assets in the Dundas renaming process and in the development of the City's next Confronting Anti-Black Racism Action Plan:

- a. Dudley Laws - a Canadian civil rights icon who as Executive Director of the Black Action Defence Committee worked to combat anti-Black racism in policing and helped to establish Ontario's Special Investigation Unit; and
- b. Charles Roach - a civil rights lawyer and activist who was a prominent leader in Toronto's Black community who fought tirelessly for social justice and equality for marginalized communities.

### **City Council Decision**

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City Council on December 13, 14 and 15, 2023, adopted the following:

1. City Council direct the Yonge-Dundas Square Board, in collaboration with the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to adopt the new name Sankofa Square selected by the Recognition Review Community Advisory Committee and report to City Council through the Executive Committee as part of the report on the Governance Review of Yonge-Dundas Square, to adopt the recommended new name by the end of the second quarter of 2024.

2. City Council request the Toronto Public Library Board to rename the Jane/Dundas Library, in collaboration with the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, and the two local

Councillors, such that the name Dundas is removed, to be completed by the second or third quarter of 2024.

3. City Council request the Toronto Transit Commission Board to:

a. rename the Dundas subway station in collaboration with the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture and Toronto Metropolitan University such that the name Dundas is removed and there is no net impact on the City of Toronto's or the Toronto Transit Commission's budget, to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2024; and

b. rename the Dundas West subway station in collaboration with the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture and in consultation with the Recognition Review Community Advisory Committee such that the name Dundas is removed, to be completed within the Toronto Transit Commission's 10-year capital plan and preferably by 2025.

4. City Council direct the Executive Director of Social Development, Finance and Administration, in collaboration with the General Manager of Economic Development and Culture, the General Manager of Transportation Services, and the Chief Communications Officer of Strategic Public and Employee Communications to undertake public education campaign and strategic communication efforts to acknowledge the impact of the trans-Atlantic slave trade and slavery in keeping with the International Decade for People of African Descent and report to the Executive Committee in the fourth quarter of 2024 aligned with an update on the Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism, and request the Mayor consider \$50,000 to fund this program in each of 2024 and 2025.

5. City Council direct the City Manager to pause work on the remaining recommendations in 2021.EX25.1 until Council provides direction to resume.

6. City Council request the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee to include among other candidates, as part of any future consultation to consider honouring and naming City of Toronto assets in the Dundas renaming process and in the development of the City's next Confronting Anti-Black Racism Action Plan:

a. Dudley Laws - a Canadian civil rights icon who as Executive Director of the Black Action Defence Committee worked to combat anti-Black racism in policing and helped to establish Ontario's Special Investigation Unit; and

b. Charles Roach - a civil rights lawyer and activist who was a prominent leader in Toronto's Black community who fought tirelessly for social justice and equality for marginalized communities.

## **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM13.29

(<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-241604.pdf>) Fiscal Impact Statement from the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

(<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-241617.pdf>)

## **Communications (City Council)**

(September 25, 2023) Submission from the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture on City of Toronto Recognition Review: Summary of the Shortlisted Names (MM.New)

(<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/mm/comm/communicationfile-174366.pdf>)