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June 25, 2024

Mr. John Elvidge, City Clerk  
City Clerk's Office  
100 Queen Street West  
12th Floor, West Tower  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mr. Elvidge,

### **Re: Administrative Inquiry Regarding Removal of City Symbols**

Councillor Holyday submitted an Administrative Inquiry to seek information regarding the removal of City symbols. This letter provides a response to this request. It has been developed in collaboration with the City Clerk's Office.

#### Response

Please find below responses to each of the questions submitted.

*1. What City symbols, including Coats of Arms, flags, monuments and art have been removed?*

- Former City of Etobicoke Coat of Arms:
  - Etobicoke Civic Centre
- Former City of Toronto Coat of Arms:
  - St. Lawrence Hall
  - Beaches Recreation Centre
  - Matty Eckler Community Centre
  - Mary McCormick Recreation Centre
  - Fire Station 325
  - Fire Station 423
  - Central Property Building

*2. Who made the decision to remove them?*

As City Manager, I approved the removal of the Etobicoke Civic Centre coat of arms. The balance were removed on the direction of protocol staff following discussions with City divisions including the Indigenous Affairs Office.

*3. Why were they removed? Were they the subject of a complaint, and if so, what was the complaint, when was the complaint, and where did it come from?*

The reasons for the removal and the complaints were summarized in [EX10.20, Etobicoke Coat of Arms Displayed in Etobicoke Civic Centre](#), which was considered by the Executive Committee on December 5, 2023

The balance of the coats of arms were removed for the same reasons.

*4. Are there any more symbols, including Coats of Arms, flags, monuments and art expected to be removed? If so, what is under consideration and why?*

There are no plans to remove or replace other symbols at this time, although the City will continue to review its commitments under the Reconciliation Action Plan that may include symbols and protocols.

Sincerely,



Paul Johnson  
City Manager

cc:

Aretha Phillip, Chief of Protocol, City Clerk's Office