

Expression of Condolence for Estella Wheeler by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Councillor James Pasternak

Seconded by: Councillor Chris Moise

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the tragic passing of Estella Wheeler on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, in Vaughan, Ontario, at the age of 64.

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Estella Wheeler, devoted mother of Trevon, Damian, and Tissa-Kaye and grandmother to three children. She was a beloved teacher at the Africentric Alternative School in North York for seven years and had recently brought her students to visit City Hall for our Black History Month tradition. Estella was an educator for over 40 years and taught elementary, secondary, and post-secondary classes. She had an excellent relationship with students keeping their interests at heart, inspiring them, and always being available to support them with their studies. Estella also took pleasure in mentoring new teachers and offering knowledge and advice to colleagues.

Estella's career began in Jamaica where she was born and raised. After graduating from Clarendon College, Church Teachers' College, and Royal College of Arts, she went on to teach at Brandon Hill All-Age School and Central High School. Shortly after, Estella returned to the Royal College of Arts as an instructor.

In 2008, Estella Wheeler immigrated to Canada with her family. She pursued further academic studies at York University and obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree with Cum Laude Honour. Estella taught at several Toronto District School Board schools including Brookview Middle School, Smithfield Middle School, Rockford Public School, Downsview Public School, and Africentric Alternative School.

During her tenure teaching at Africentric Alternative School, Estella Wheeler was known for going above and beyond to facilitate extracurricular activities, organize special events, and plan school assemblies. She started a student council initiative that included representatives from every grade, including kindergarten. Estella and her students would meet biweekly to engage and develop the students' leadership skills.

The observance and preservation of Estella's Christian faith were of utmost importance to her, a value that she transmitted to her family. Estella was committed to attending

services regularly at the Church of God of Prophecy in Jamaica and West Toronto Church of God in Canada. She also served in Church as a Sunday School Teacher and in other departments when needed.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Estella Wheeler.

March 20, 2024