

Expression of Condolence for Louis March by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Mayor Olivia Chow

**Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik,
Councillor Jennifer McKelvie,
Councillor Mike Colle, and
Councillor Amber Morley**

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Louis March – a prominent and beloved volunteer community worker and activist in the African Canadian Community in Toronto for more than 30 years – who passed away on July 20, 2024, at the age of 68.

A Jamaican-born resident of Scarborough, Mr. March left behind a career in the corporate sector to focus on serving African Canadian communities across the City. He was well known for his work with Black and African Canadian communities as a leader, advocate, activist, volunteer, and community organizer dedicated to tackling institutionalized anti-Black racism.

Mr. March is best known for his role as founder of the Zero Gun Violence Movement, a grassroots advocacy organization focused on eliminating gun violence and its root causes particularly among youth. Over the course of a decade, the Zero Gun Violence Movement grew under Louis' leadership, with impactful partnerships with dozens of organizations, agencies, and programs across the city. Today, Zero Gun Violence Movement is a collaboration of over 45 community initiatives aimed at advancing community safety and ending gun violence across Toronto.

Beyond his involvement with the Zero Gun Violence Movement, Mr. March served on many community boards and committees including Young and Potential Fathers, the Tabono Institute, and the African Canadian Heritage Association. He also advocated for the first Friday in June to be recognized as the National Day Against Gun Violence, which was first observed by the Government of Canada in 2023.

Mr. March often described that it was his purpose to address the painful grief and traumatic impacts of gun violence on individuals and communities and worked tirelessly with grassroots community-based programs to end gun violence. His work helped the City's efforts to confront anti-Black racism and provide supports for community groups- specifically mothers who have lost children to gun violence.

Mr. March was recognized with several awards including the Province of Ontario's Volunteer Service Award in 2008 and the Mayor's Community Safety Award in 2021. He leaves behind a legacy as a passionate and dedicated advocate who, for over 30 years, worked tirelessly to contribute to the success of the communities he worked with. The City will continue to honour and build upon Mr. March's vision and legacy of working towards Zero Gun Violence in the City of Toronto. He will be remembered for his words: "Continue to think big and then go out and make even bigger things happen."

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Mr. March's family and to all those whom he touched through his work.

July 24, 2024