

***Expression of Condolence for
Ronald “Ronnie” des Vignes by Toronto City Council***

Moved by: Councillor Michael Thompson

Seconded by: Mayor Olivia Chow

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are saddened to learn of the passing of Ronald ‘Ronnie’ des Vignes on November 15, 2024, at the age of 77.

Ronnie was born on December 8, 1946, in Trinidad and Tobago. He will be dearly missed by his beloved wife, Nancy; his daughters, Danielle des Vignes Skinner, Annelise des Vignes, and Krystal Harris; his stepchildren, Christopher Benson and Leigha Benson; his 11 grandchildren; as well as his many nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, and friends.

Ronnie has been a revered figure in the mas' playing community, captivating audiences with his vibrant performances and creative costumes. His illustrious career has spanned several decades, during which he has won numerous accolades, including the memorable title of Male Individual at the King and Queen showcase along with King of the Year, despite enduring severe injuries during his performance.

Ronnie's commitment to the art of mas' and his dedication to his craft have inspired many, leaving a lasting impact on the Carnival culture in Toronto and abroad.

His final performance, portraying the 'Protector of the Underworld Gods', not only demonstrated his exceptional skill and passion but also highlighted his resilience and determination in the face of adversity.

Ronnie's journey from the vibrant carnivals of Trinidad to the grand stages of Toronto exemplifies a life dedicated to cultural expression and personal excellence.

This council expresses its deepest admiration and respect for Ronnie des Vignes and his significant contributions to the arts and community, including providing entertainment during the Christmas holidays. We recognize his enduring legacy as a mas' player and celebrate the high note on which he has ended his playing career.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City

Council, our deepest sympathy to Ronald "Ronnie" des Vignes' family.

December 17, 2024