

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM30.20	ACTION			Ward: 13
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Renaming Sumach-Shuter Parkette to Louis March Park - by Councillor Chris Moise, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Etobicoke York Community Council. A two thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Chris Moise, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher, recommends that:

1. Despite the provisions of the City of Toronto Property Naming Policy, City Council approve the renaming of the Sumach-Shuter Parkette to “Louis March Park”.
2. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks and Recreation to undertake the necessary design and installation of replacement facility and wayfinding signage.

Summary

In recognition of Louis March’s decades-long commitment to public safety, equity and youth development, the City of Toronto should rename Shuter-Sumach Parkette to Louis March Park. Regent Park was one of the neighborhoods where Louis did some of his most impactful work, and would recognize his deep commitment to ending gun violence and supporting the most vulnerable communities in Toronto.

Louis March founded the Zero Gun Violence Movement, believing that everyone deserved to live in a safe, supportive and opportunity-rich environment regardless of their postal code. His sudden passing on July 20, 2024, was a profound loss for the city, but his vision continues to guide efforts towards peace and justice.

For decades, Louis March worked with community groups, mothers who had lost children to violence, youth leaders and elected officials to address the root causes of violence in Toronto. His tireless advocacy called for meaningful investments in preventative solutions and youth empowerment - focusing on education, mental health, employment and restorative justice. He was particularly vocal in challenging systemic issues that fuel violence and limit opportunity in historically underserved neighborhoods in Toronto.

While his work spanned communities across the city, Louis had a deep connection to Regent Park. He spent significant time engaging with residents, responding to incidents of violence and combating stigma. He stood with the community through grief and healing, consistently supporting young people and their families. His presence, mentorship and leadership were instrumental in building trust and pushing for action.

This renaming has strong support, including an in-person and widely shared online petition. Residents, community leaders and local organizations have all voiced their enthusiasm for honoring Louis March in this way. His family has also expressed appreciation for this tribute.

Renaming this park in Louis March's honor will serve as a lasting reminder of his unwavering commitment to a Toronto free from violence - one rooted in dignity, compassion and opportunity for all. It is not only a tribute to his legacy, but a call to continue the work he began: striving for zero gun violence through unity, love and collective action.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM30.20

(<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2025/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-255355.pdf>)