

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM32.31	ACTION			Ward: 22
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Renaming of Diamond 1 at Wishing Well Park as “Darryl Harding Memorial Diamond” - by Councillor Nick Mantas, seconded by Mayor Olivia Chow

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

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

Recommendations

Councillor Nick Mantas, seconded by Mayor Olivia Chow, recommends that:

1. Despite the provisions of the City of Toronto Property Naming Policy, City Council approve the renaming of Diamond 1 at Wishing Well Park to “Darryl Harding Memorial Diamond”.

Summary

Darryl Harding (Coach D) was a dedicated community mentor and leader who devoted countless hours to supporting youth baseball in Scarborough. As President and coach of the Wexford Agincourt Baseball League, he made a lasting impact on local sports culture, equity-deserving communities, and generations of young athletes. His sudden passing in August 2024 prompted an outpouring of love and support from players, coaches, parents, and community members whose lives he touched. Wishing Well Park became a second home for many under his leadership, making the naming of Baseball Diamond 1 in his honour a meaningful and appropriate tribute.

Community organizations, residents, and local leaders were actively consulted as part of this naming proposal and emphasized Mr. Harding’s exceptional commitment to equity and inclusion in youth sport. He volunteered over 1,200 hours each year, championed the creation of a girls-only baseball division in partnership with the Jays Care Foundation Rookie League, and personally covered registration fees for children from low-income families to ensure every child had a chance to play baseball. He also pushed for much-needed facility improvements to make youth baseball safer. In recognition of his dedication, Darryl Harding was awarded the Toronto Blue Jays “Seat 21” honour in 2016.

A formal property naming application was submitted to the City’s Strategic Partnerships Office, and staff confirmed that the proposal aligns with the City of Toronto’s Guiding Principles for Commemoration. Residents were actively engaged in the consultation process, and the proposal received overwhelming support from the Wexford-Agincourt and broader Scarborough communities.

Naming Wishing Well Park Diamond 1 as “Darryl Harding Memorial Diamond” would serve as a lasting recognition of his service, passion, and enduring legacy that continues through the youth and families he inspired.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM32.31