

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

3. Designating January 29th as Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia

Submitted by: Councillor Swanson

WHEREAS

1. On January 29, 2017, a white gunman entered the Islamic Cultural Centre mosque in Quebec City and opened fire on dozens of Muslim worshippers;
2. By the time the shooting had ended, six people had been tragically killed and 19 more were injured: Ibrahima Barry, Mamadou Tanou Barry, Khaled Belkacemi, Aboubaker Thabti, Abdelkrim Hassane, and Azzedine Soufiane lost their lives that night;
3. Muslim communities across Canada were, and continue to be, affected by this and other acts of hate, racism, white supremacy, and Islamophobia—including the anti-Islam rally planned for August 19, 2017, outside Vancouver City Hall;
4. To commemorate January 29, Muslim communities in Vancouver have held vigils, discussions, and other events, including an annual vigil during evening prayers at the Vancouver Al-jamia Mosque on 8th Ave, which is the oldest mosque in BC;
5. The cities of Toronto, Mississauga, Brampton, Markham, Hamilton, and Windsor have all designated January 29 as a Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia. Many municipalities across Canada commemorate the events of January 29 with their Muslim community partners, and there is a nation-wide campaign for the federal government to recognize the day nationally (<https://www.january29.ca/about>).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council declare January 29th as a Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia, adding it to its official observances calendar;

FURTHER THAT the City of Vancouver acknowledge this day with a proclamation.

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