

Date: 5 – 15 - 2025

Ref: Staff Report for Committee of the Whole Meeting  
Date of Meeting: May 21, 2025 , Report Number: SRCS.25.08  
Department: Community Services , Division: Public Works Operation  
Subject: SRCS.25.08 - Mahsa Jina Amini, Memorial Tree and Bench

Dear Committee Members,

On September 16, 2022, Mahsa (Jina) Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian woman, was tragically killed in Tehran, sparking the 'Woman, Life, Freedom (Zan Zendegi Azadi)' movement. This movement resulted in the loss of over 500 protesters in Iran and inspired a global response. On November 19, 2022, over 50,000 people gathered at the **Richmond Hill Library grounds**, marking the largest rally in the city's history.

We appreciate Councillor Godwin Chan's support in passing a motion on September 6, 2023, declaring September 16 as 'Mahsa Amini Memorial Day.' The motion requested a location for a tree planting, bench, and memorial plaque. However, our intention, as discussed with Councillor Chan, was to create a memorial place through a worldwide design competition that reflects the ideals of the 'Woman, Life, Freedom' movement in Richmond hill.

We worked closely with Councillor Chan and city staff, presenting our proposal for the library grounds on Oct. 6th and Oct. 13th, 2023. Our proposed memorial requires an area of approximately 100 x 100 feet with access to large open space for annual gatherings - specifically on grounds of the 50,000-person march.

We provided our feedback on the staff's design proposal for the Park on October 2024, and presented our competition proposal to Deputy Chan, Mrs. Dobbie, and Mr. Anant Patal online on October 22, 2024. Despite our repeated attempts, our proposal was not reflected in the March 2025 Committee agenda. We attended the Committee of the whole meeting online as delegate and forwarded our plan to the council directly.

Regrettably, the committee's May 21st decision disregards our proposal, and ignores the significance of the Library grounds as the only meaningful site to represent the 50,000-person march of November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

We hope you will reconsider and recognize our repeated appeal for this issue.

Sincerely,



Hamid Kashani  
OAA,MRAIC

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