



CUMBERLAND
CITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting

Wednesday, 19 May 2021 at 6:30pm

Cumberland City Council Chambers

Merrylands Service Centre, 16 Memorial Avenue, Merrylands

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LATE REPORTS

Council Meeting – 19 May 2021

Mayoral Minutes

MM05/21-57	Mayoral Minute - Support for Western Sydney Hospitals	5
MM05/21-58	Mayoral Minute - Cumberland City Council's 2021 Ramadan Iftar Dinner	7
MM05/21-59	Mayoral Minute - Conflict in Gaza Strip	9
MM05/21-60	Mayoral Minute - Advocacy for Improved Express Train Services	11

Questions on Notice

C05/21-767	Questions on Notice - Submitted by Councillor Lake.....	13
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Item No: MM05/21-57

MAYORAL MINUTE - SUPPORT FOR WESTERN SYDNEY HOSPITALS

Author: Mayor Steve Christou
File Number: SC486

SUMMARY

Last year, I wrote to the NSW Minister for Health and Medical Research, Brad Hazzard seeking urgent intervention to reinstate the palliative care ward in Westmead hospital. NSW Health - Western Sydney Local Health District routinely describes itself as the biggest health precinct in the southern hemisphere. The fact that there is not a dedicated palliative care unit in this precinct is disgraceful in my view, and not good enough for our community.

Hospitals in Western Sydney have been systemically run down, under resourced, and therefore unable to provide a full suite of medical services to the Cumberland City community. This has to stop. More resources and funding is required from the State Government to ensure our hospitals are up to scratch, appropriately staffed, and are adequate and fit for purpose to service our community.

The reinstatement of a dedicated palliative care unit at Westmead Hospital is a must. More resourcing and funding should also be allocated to Auburn Hospital to allow the hiring of more skilled staff, such as nurses and doctors to enable more services to be run.

Given the aggressive housing targets set for our Council by the State Government, it once again brings us to the discussion in this Chamber about the provision of infrastructure and funding to support this projected growth. I firmly believe that if the State Government want to mandate aggressive housing targets for our Council to reach, that they must provide this Council with the appropriate funding and infrastructure to support this. The basic needs for our community include modern and multi-functional local hospitals, equipped to help people. Currently, it is clear that the hospitals servicing Cumberland City Council residents are run down, and only have partial capacity to support certain illnesses and conditions, with many of our residents having to be transferred to another hospital outside the LGA when they become ill.

For too long, Western Sydney has been forgotten in the area of health, and it is the people, our community that suffer. I am moving this Mayoral minute tonight for the people of Cumberland, who deserve better. Tonight I am making a commitment that as the Mayor of this City, I will lobby and advocate on this issue vigorously, and escalate this matter to all the relevant Ministers and Members of Parliament, including the NSW Premier.

I would also like to go one step further, and ask the Acting General Manager to have staff prepare a petition in relation to this matter, and place the petition on Council's website and notify residents of this. Once closed, the petition will be forwarded to all the relevant Members of Parliament, as well as the Premier.

Therefore Councillors, tonight I am recommending the following:

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Support the Mayoral Minute;**
- 2. Instigate through the Acting General Manager a community petition, seeking the upgrade and significant resourcing allocation for Auburn and Westmead hospitals, including the reinstatement of a dedicated palliative care unit at Westmead; and**
- 3. Following the petition closing, write to the relevant Members of Parliament and the Premier, providing them with a copy of the Petition, strongly advocating for the required upgrades and funding.**

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item No: MM05/21-58

MAYORAL MINUTE - CUMBERLAND CITY COUNCIL'S 2021 RAMADAN IFTAR DINNER

Author: Mayor Steve Christou
File Number: SC486

SUMMARY

At the last Ordinary Council meeting held on 5th May 2021, Council resolved via my Mayoral Minute to put the proceeds of Council's trolley crushing initiative towards Council's Ramadan Iftar event planned, with any remaining proceeds to be donated to a nominated charity.

On Monday, 10th May 2021, Council held its 2021 Ramadan Iftar Dinner at the Granville Centre. This was a very important event that I wanted to see happen this year, as last year's event was unable to proceed due to Covid-19, and Council's budget situation. On all reports, it was a great night for all in attendance. Council had over 200 guests in attendance, including key leaders from the local Islamic community, under a Covid-Safe plan and protocols in place.

The community and religious groups in attendance included the following:

- Lebanese Cultural Association
- Masjid Al Salam
- Pakistan Australia Association
- Australia Malayalee Islamic Association NSW (AMIA)
- Australian Afghan Hassanian Youth Association
- Granville Youth Association
- Indian Crescent Society Australia Inc
- Auburn Islamic Community Centre (AICC)
- Austra Lanka Muslim Association
- Islamic Relief
- Western Sydney Community Centre
- Iraqi Renaissance
- Bangabandhu Council Australia Incorporated
- Horn of Africa Relief and Development Agency of Australia (HARDA)
- Somali Australian Community Association of NSW (SACA)
- African Australian Islamic Association

I am pleased to report that the event was a resounding success, and really set a high standard for future Cumberland City Council Iftar dinner events. I would like to thank the Acting General Manager for organising the event, and also all Councillors in attendance.

I have been advised that the total cost of the event was \$13,392. Based on my previous Mayoral Minute, where Council received \$15,950 in proceeds due to the Trolley

Crushing initiative, \$2,558 will be to be donated to Charity. I would like to nominate a local charity, with a purpose to support Cumberland City Council residents. I'd like to nominate Holroyd Community Aid Inc. The role of the charity is to provide Emergency Relief to the residents living within our Council area who are experiencing a crisis or a hardship situation. This relief covers multiple areas including food vouchers, chemist vouchers, electricity and gas vouchers, assistance with the payment of bills, clothing, nappies, blankets, linen, pillows, financial counselling and other assistance on application.

Finally, on behalf of myself and all Councillors, I would also like to sincerely thank the staff who worked extremely hard to plan and deliver this event together across Council.

Therefore Councillors, tonight I recommend the following:

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Thank all the religious leaders and groups in attendance at the Cumberland City Council 2021 Ramadan Iftar Dinner.**
- 2. Recognise and thank all the staff involved across Council in planning and delivering the 2021 Ramadan Iftar Dinner.**
- 3. Make a donation of \$2,558 to the Holroyd Community Aid Inc Charity.**

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item No: MM05/21-59

MAYORAL MINUTE - CONFLICT IN GAZA STRIP

Author: Mayor Steve Christou
File Number: SC486

SUMMARY

It has been well documented over the past week the horrific scenes in Israel and the Palestinian Territories. Many civilians have been killed and wounded, homes and commercial infrastructure have been destroyed. The pain and destruction caused by these attacks will have a long lasting impact on both sides.

Cumberland City Council is home to one of the most diverse communities in the country. One of the great positives of our community, is that everyone gets along harmoniously, regardless of their background. We all respect and embrace each other's diversity, that's what makes us so great. We are a strong example of social cohesion and tolerance.

There are no winners in war. I believe that it is important as a nation that Australia plays a strong part in trying to negotiate a solution to this issue. We cannot continue to sit idly and watch on our television screens the death and destruction that is ruining the lives of both Israeli and Palestinian civilians.

As such, I am asking this Council to take a strong stance on this issue. Regardless of anyone's personal or political views, the killing of innocent people is not tolerable under any circumstances. I believe that it is crucial that we convey our concerns to the Office of Prime Minister, Scott Morrison on this important issue, and request that the Prime Minister contact world leaders in order to facilitate the cessation of all hostilities.

Therefore Councillors, tonight I am recommending the following:

RECOMMENDATION

That Council write to the Prime Minister of Australia, urging him to hold immediate talks with world leaders in an effort to negotiate a peaceful end to the current conflict in Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item No: MM05/21-60

MAYORAL MINUTE - ADVOCACY FOR IMPROVED EXPRESS TRAIN SERVICES

Author: Mayor Steve Christou
File Number: SC486

SUMMARY

Several years ago, the state government ceased running express trains on the Granville line. This is completely unacceptable for residents in our community and has resulted in significantly increased travel times to the city with an average 35 minute commute now taking close to an hour with full trains bursting at the seams.

For the past four years, Council and I have maintained a strong voice advocating on behalf of Cumberland City residents to the New South Wales State Government to reinstate Granville's express train line, however, despite Council's efforts, there has been no improvement for our residents who continue to struggle each and every day for their public transport needs.

As part of the More Trains, More Services program, the NSW Government changed the train routes available to commuters in Sydney's west and south west. This ultimately cut the number of express train services stopping at Granville, Auburn and Lidcombe stations. In July and September of 2019, Council wrote to the government to address the fewer services but in response, Transport and Roads ruled out any urgent changes. This response is unacceptable and our residents deserve better. Ultimately, this is an issue which this Council firmly requires its local Members of Parliament to drive a strong advocacy agenda on.

As a Council, we have invested heavily in major projects along the rail corridor and take pride in ensuring that you have access to high quality infrastructure and services each day. Clear examples of this include the recently constructed Granville Centre and Council's ongoing contribution to the local area by constructing record amounts of new footpaths, roads and basic infrastructure.

I am tired of Cumberland City being ignored and missing out on basic service improvements that can be provided by the New South Wales State Government, our residents deserve better services and more effective representation. I call upon our local state members to advocate on behalf of our community, remain present and put the needs of this electorate above others. At a minimum, our residents deserve that level of service.

We look forward to working with the NSW Government to progress work on a trial of express train services.

Therefore Councillors, tonight I am recommending the following:

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Write to local Members of Parliament, urging them to strongly increase advocacy efforts to the State Government for the reinstatement of express train services in the Cumberland City Council area.**
- 2. Write to the NSW Premier, and Minister of Transport and Roads, again urging them to reinstate express train services in the Cumberland City Council area.**

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item No: C05/21-767

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR LAKE

Responsible Division: General Manager
File Number: SC483

QUESTION/S:

Will the General Manager please provide an answer as a closed Council report to the following question:

In relation to the identified savings summarised for the Directorate, Community and Organisational Development in the Confidential attachment to Item C07/20-502 - Council Meeting 15 July 2020

Would the General Manager please provide:

- a. An itemised list of the identified savings for the function “Projects and Supervisors” that amounted to other cost savings of \$94,516 and;
- b. An itemised list of the identified savings for the function “Projects and Supervisors” that amounted to other cost savings of \$191,566.

ANSWER/S:

The below list identifies the programs where the money was deducted from. Any funds were from general ledger code functions and activities.

A) The itemised list for the expenditure is:

Project Code	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Identified Savings
Arts Events Granville	20,309.50	0	20,309.50
Volunteer Program	28,501.00	14,250.50	14,250.50
Sector Development	35,912.00	17,956.00	17,956.00
Social Research and plan	42,000.00	0	42,000.00
Total	126,722.50	32,206.50	94,516.00

B) The itemised list for the expenditure is:

Project Code	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Identified Savings
Cultural Food Programs	28,022	14,004	14,018
Arts and Events	458,336	280,838	177,498
Total	486,358	294,842	191,516

ATTACHMENTS

Nil