

From: Ben Miller
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 11:03 AM
To: Ridley, Virginia <vridley@london.ca>
Cc: Hubert, Paul <pHubert@london.ca>
Subject: Re: Salvation Army Commissioning

Two years ago I asked that the city acknowledge the Salvation Army's very significant involvement in this city for over 130 years. The city had just made a concerted effort to recognize the LGBTQ community by painting rainbow colours on a number of intersections around the city in time for Pride week. This appeared to have been done in record time for a cause that is considered worthy of recognition.

At the same time there was an event about to take place at our London convention center being held by the Salvation Army as they commissioned their officers/clergy. It seemed to me that in view of the Salvation Army's contribution to the day to day lives of the citizens of London that the Salvation Army colours Red, Yellow and Blue could be painted at the intersection of Wellington and Horton Streets near the Centre of Hope.

I didn't receive any official explanation but was led to understand that there might be a more appropriate type of recognition and timing might be better suited to another time of year.

I wanted to take another run at this. It seems to me that as a city we are eager to get behind popular issues as worthy as they might be but at the same time overlook some things that have contributed in a very meaningful way to the fabric of this city from its early beginnings to the present. This seems to smack of prejudice of a different kind and I would like to shine some light on it.

Perhaps painting colours on intersections wouldn't be suitable. After all there are many, many organizations and people groups that should be recognized. Recently at our main branch Library there was an excellent display and presentation relating to the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. If we started to paint intersections, where would it end?

The city could decide to fly the Salvation Army Flag (with their permission of course) commemorating some significant date or even for a period of days or weeks. This again could present problems as the line formed for worthy causes to have their flags flown.

Should we then just promote the "Flavours of the day" and draw the line at so many others? It is a difficult decision to make.

Getting back to my main issue, the street painting and flag flying might be too minor an acknowledgement for an organization that has done and continues to do so much for this city. I would like to recommend that the city put up a bronze plaque in Victoria Park acknowledging and thanking the Salvation Army for over 130 years of service in the city of London with the quote of the founder William Booth that I have included in my attached original request. It would be fitting under the circumstances if the mayor could read this out at a suitable ceremony.

Virginia, it would be greatly appreciated if you would submit this email and my attachment to the clerk's office for consideration on the next CWC agenda.

Thank you for your service.

Ben Miller

774 Notre Dame Dr., London, ON N6J3B8