

ITEM 3.1. ANNIVERSARY OF MARTIN PLACE SIEGE**FILE NO: S051491****MINUTE BY THE LORD MAYOR**To Council:

In the early hours of 16 December 2014, the hostage crisis which had closed Martin Place, Sydney, for 16 hours ended tragically with the deaths of two hostages: Lindt café manager, Tori Johnson, and a customer, barrister Katrina Dawson. The hostage taker, Man Haron Monis, who had seized control of the Lindt Café shortly before 10am the previous day, was also fatally shot. Three other hostages and a police officer were injured during the police action which ended the siege.

Twelve months on, we reflect sadly upon these terrible events and their impact upon Tori's partner, Thomas Zinn, and Katrina's husband, Paul Smith, their children Chloe, Oliver and Sasha and Tori's and Katrina's families and friends.

We also reflect upon the impact of the siege on the seven Lindt employees and nine Lindt customers who survived the crisis. They will continue to need our support as they prepare to relive and recall these events when the inquest into the deaths of Katrina, Tori and Man Monis resumes in March 2016.

Tomorrow evening, I will join the Premier, Tori's and Katrina's families and the siege survivors for a twilight public ceremony to mark the first anniversary of this traumatic event. It will be an opportunity to remember Katrina and Tori, offer our support to their families and the siege survivors and recognise the resilience and compassion of a proudly multicultural and harmonious city. This resilience and compassion was evident in the days immediately following the siege when Sydney-siders in large numbers placed cards, floral and other tributes in Martin Place.

It will also be an opportunity to remember and acknowledge the professionalism of the employees of the many agencies who responded to this event. This includes City staff who were rostered at the Police Operations Centre, provided CCTV vision required by other agencies to manage the incident, helped interpret building plans which helped guide tactical responses, provided Council resources as requested, including barricades and street cleansing and helped enable the streets to reopen.

In the days following the siege, the Sydney community spontaneously responded to its tragic conclusion. Within hours, people began laying flowers in Martin Place to show their respect for Tori, Katrina and their families. Over the days that followed, this impromptu flower memorial swelled to fill the block in front of the Lindt Café. City staff worked with the NSW Government on the management of Martin Place during this time, later packing up the mountain of floral tributes for mulching and preserving for the families all the cards, gifts and notes attached to the flowers.

This spontaneous floral tribute has inspired a permanent memorial for Martin Place. Designed by Professor Richard Johnson, a leading Australian architect and a member of the City's Design and Public Art Advisory Panels, the memorial will feature 400 flower symbols inlaid into the granite pavement of Martin Place. The flower symbols will be encased in small cubes which will scatter across the public plaza and shine at night in a starburst pattern.

The selection of the design is the culmination the work of Martin Place Memorial Committee established by the Department of Premier and Cabinet to consider a permanent memorial in consultation with Tori's and Katrina's families. It was chosen from a shortlist of four by a Panel comprising Museum of Contemporary Art director Elizabeth Ann Macgregor, NSW Government Architect Peter Poulet and City of Sydney design director Bridget Smyth.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) note that 15 December 2015 is the first anniversary of the Martin Place siege which resulted in the loss of three lives;
- (B) note that the community's response in the immediate aftermath of the siege reaffirmed Sydney's strength as a resilient, compassionate, accepting multi-cultural city;
- (C) offer our support for the families and friends of the late Katrina Dawson and the late Tori Johnson;
- (D) express our support for the survivors of the Martin Place siege as they prepare to give evidence at the inquest into these tragic events;
- (E) acknowledge the professionalism of the employees of the many agencies who responded to this event, including City staff;
- (F) note that the City of Sydney has worked with the NSW Government, Tori's and Katrina's families and the siege survivors to realise an appropriate permanent memorial to commemorate this tragic event, resulting in the selection of Professor Richard Johnson's inspired design for a permanent memorial; and
- (G) invite all persons in the Chamber to stand for one minute in silence to mark the anniversary of this traumatic event.

COUNCILLOR CLOVER MOORE

Lord Mayor