

Item 3.1**Vale Aunty Selena Blakeney****File No: S051491****Minute by the Lord Mayor**

To Council:

The Woolloomooloo community along with many City staff were saddened by the recent passing of Aunty Selena Blakeney. Her family has given me permission to honour her life in this Lord Mayoral Minute.

Born on 13 September 1948, Aunty Selena identified as Yaegl / Wiradjuri woman from Cabbage Tree Island. Passionate about her culture and communities, she shared her time between her family and the communities of Cabbage Tree Island and Woolloomooloo. A generous and kind respected Elder, she was also known in the Woolloomooloo Community as the Black Queen.

Her Woolloomooloo home was a gathering place, a place for all ages to meet, feel welcome and enjoy a sense of belonging. On Christmas Eve she would have her famous spaghetti bolognese ready for anyone who popped in for a yarn.

Beyond her home she helped organise many NAIDOC gatherings and community events. The City is particularly grateful for Aunty Selena's leadership, advocacy and assistance in supporting the needs of the Woolloomooloo community during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Aunty Selena's legacy will continue through the many community projects she worked on over her years. Most recently, we recognise her success in creating 'Matora Mob Committee' with support from the City, which provides a space for the needs and aspirations of the Woolloomooloo community of that she cared so deeply about.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) all persons attending this meeting of Council observe one minute's silence to commemorate the life of Aunty Selena Blakeney and her significant contribution to the Woolloomooloo community;
- (B) Council express its condolences to Aunty Selena's family; and
- (C) the Lord Mayor be requested to convey Council's condolences to Aunty Selena's family.

COUNCILLOR CLOVER MOORE

Lord Mayor