Council 20 November 2023

## Item 15.6

## **Notices of Motion**

## **Bring Joy Back Home**

By Councillor Scott

It is resolved that:

## (A) Council note:

- (i) East Sydney's statue of Joy was the world's first statue of a sex worker, acting as a tribute to our City's working women and the history of East Sydney;
- (ii) NSW was the world's first jurisdiction to decriminalise sex work, under former NSW Labor Premier Bob Carr, allowing for stronger health and safety outcomes for professionals in the sex work industry and protecting against illegal sex trafficking;
- (iii) the former South Sydney Council led reforms and regulations to ensure planning compliance for sex work premises, leading the world in creating safer, legal working environments for sex workers;
- (iv) the statue of Joy, sculpted by artist Loui Fraser, was located on the corner of Stanley and Yurong Street in Darlinghurst for 18 months, from 1995;
- (v) in 2000, Joy was relocated to Macquarie University where the statue continues to reside, however, the University supports a version of the statue being reinstated in Darlinghurst; and
- (vi) artist Loui Fraser, Macquarie University, local residents, businesses and services including Vincentian House have indicated their overwhelming support to bring the statue of Joy back to Stanley and Yurong Street, with nearly 400 local residents signing a petition to support the move; and
- (B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:
  - (i) consult the City's local East Sydney community and Public Art Advisory Panel on the best way to reinstate the of statue of Joy to Stanley Street and Yurong Street;
  - (ii) provision funding in the 2023/24 CEO Contingency Fund for a bronze reproduction of Joy and required work; and
  - (iii) reinstate a bronze reproduction of the historic statue of Joy, with frame, to the corner of Stanley and Yurong Streets with a historical plaque outlining the history of these works to the City of Sydney.

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