
Notice of Motions & Questions With Notice - 28 March 2023

ITEM 10.2 Proposal to Rename Chester Hill Community Centre

I, Councillor Christopher Cahill hereby give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council I will move the following motion:-

“That Council rename the Chester Hill Community Centre to the Helen Westwood AM Community Centre.”

BACKGROUND

Councillors, Helen Westwood has been a giant in the Bankstown Community and has worked tirelessly over very many years to make Bankstown a better place.

Helen was a community worker for various community-based organisations in South-West Sydney between 1985 to 1989 and was the Centre Coordinator of the Bessie Smythe Foundation from 1994 to 1996. In 1995 Helen was elected to Bankstown City Council where she served until 2007 when she was elected as a Member of the Legislative Council. She claims to be the first Mayor of Bankstown to be elected to NSW Parliament, I am hopeful another will follow in March next year.

During her time on Council, Helen served as Deputy Mayor between 1997 and 1998 and as Mayor of Bankstown City from September 2002 to May 2006. She was a board member of the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC) from 2001 and its chair from 2004 to 2005. Additionally, Helen was a member of the Executive of the New South Wales Local Government Association and was a Director on the Board of Waste Recycling and Processing Corporation from 1996 to 2007.

In 2006 Helen was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to Local Government. In 2007 she was commended in the women of the West Award for her commitment and dedication to improving social balance, equity, opportunity and community harmony.

Helen was a passionate advocate for all members of our community, particularly those that needed a hand up to level the playing field. She worked tirelessly to open up and expand Disability Services and funding in Bankstown. She worked to expand Parkland in our City and was a passionate advocate for Paul Keating Park a wonderful and well used green space in the heart of our city.

One of Helen's notable achievements was that she was instrumental in obtaining the funding for the Chester Hill Community Centre. It is very appropriate therefore that we acknowledge Helen's contribution to Bankstown by naming this Centre which she worked to make a reality in her honour, as "The Helen Westwood AM Community Centre."

Councillors, I commend the motion to you.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The motion has minimal costs mainly related to signage and stationery. It should not have a material impact on the existing budget.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S COMMENT

There is a minimal financial impact of the motion as written.