

**WORDING FOR MOTION CONCERNING THE DATE OF  
MAY 28<sup>TH</sup> BEING OFFICIALLY PROCLAIMED AS  
“LALI VIJ DAY”  
IN THE TOWN OF MARKHAM, ONTARIO**

Mr. Speaker, since 1968... the name of Lali Vij has held a pioneering & rather celebrated place in the world of South Asian broadcasting via both Radio & Television.

He began his broadcasting career by presenting a weekly radio program on CHIN FM Radio called "Voice Of India" that became so popular that televisions would be switched off and personal gatherings would be halted in order to truly enjoy each broadcast.

In 1979 Mr. Vij, in partnership with local broadcaster, Sherali Thaver & another well respected figure in the community, Mr. SGP Jafry.. started the Sounds Of Asia programs on Global Television from Saturday September 20th 1979 until September 8th 1984.

The next week, Lali who had since become the sole producer from August of 1982, moved his show onto Citytv. During the course of his programs, Mr. Vij interviewed & featured some of the biggest names in South Asian Sports, Entertainment & Politics while creating an exceptional window for our community with a level of respect & professionalism that made it so people would find their respective weekends incomplete without being able to watch Sounds Of Asia.

However Mr. Speaker, on the night of Tuesday May 28th 1991... Mr. Vij who dedicated a great deal of his life to the entertainment & integration of Ontario's South Asian Community tragically became and to this day, still remains one of Toronto's most prominent victims of gun violence when he was viciously assassinated at the hands of a cowardly gunman while his wife had watched in horror.

In light of this truly disastrous event Mr. Speaker, it is my most sincere appeal, hope, request and desire that my esteemed colleagues within this great Council, join me in unanimously passing this motion which would officially declare the date of May 28<sup>th</sup> to be known as "Lali Vij Day" within the Town Of Markham while also including the designation of "Lali Vij Way" to the thoroughfare known as "Highgate Drive" so that the great legacy & many innumerable gifts given by one of Markham's most famous residents to the GTA, to Ontario & the world itself as a whole can be recognized.

It is also my hope that through this motion, the great name and legacy of the Late Lali Vij will be able to stand the test of time, continue to live in our hearts & prayers while also being included into the pantheon of our nation's greatest & most significant historical figures.

In addition to the great names from back home, which included many who had granted their first... and in some cases, only appearances on television and/or radio within Canada or North America, Mr. Vij's bedrock mission and objective was the integration and co-operation of the South Asian Community within the mainstream Canadian society.

Part of this process involved great active participation in a handful of community activities such as June 1985's Charity Concert for The United Way within Maple Leaf Gardens that had featured legendary singers from India as Lata Mangeshkar & the Late Kishore Kumar... the Mahatma Gandhi Peace Rally to Toronto City Hall in May of 1987 which successfully attracted & united some 10 – 15,000 supporters from all throughout the GTA's countless national, linguistic & faith backgrounds, along with his numerous interviews for television and radio with many esteemed Mayors, Councillors & Aldermen throughout the GTA, Former Premiers & MPPs within the Ontario Legislature and of course, a handful of former Prime Ministers & MPs from the House Of Commons.