

Council

SPECIAL MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and remotely, via Microsoft Teams, on Tuesday, 2nd May, 2023 at 6.00 p.m., pursuant to notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Black) (Chairperson);
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor M. Kelly);
The High Sheriff (Councillor Kyle);
Aldermen Copeland, Dorrian, Haire, Sandford and Rodgers;
and Councillors Beattie, Bradley, Bunting, Canavan, Carson, Matt Collins, Michael Collins, de Faoite, M. Donnelly, R. M. Donnelly, Doran, Douglas, Duffy, Flynn, Garrett, Gormley, Groogan, Hanvey, Heading, Howard, Hussey, T. Kelly, Long, Lyons, Magee, Maskey, McAteer, McCabe, McCann, McCullough, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McKeown, McLaughlin, McMullan, Murphy, Murray, Newton, O'Hara, Smyth, Spratt, Thompson, Walsh and Whyte.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported for Alderman McCoubrey and Councillors Bower, Cobain, Ferguson, Hutchinson, Maghie, Nelson and Verner.

Freedom of the City - Dáithí Mac Gabhann.

Moved by Councillor Micheal Donnelly,
Seconded by Alderman Dorrian and

Resolved – “Belfast City Council is no stranger to Dáithí Mac Gabhann and his family.

Dáithí was the official face of Belfast City Council's Christmas card in 2018 and Belfast City Council was also the first council here to support the calls for the introduction of soft opt out organ donation back in 2019 and, most recently, this council wrote to Chris Heaton Harris calling on him to push Dáithí's Law through Westminster.

Dáithí's Law is happening and will be introduced on 1st June 2023 and that is down to the sheer persistence and determination of the Mac Gabhann family who never gave up.

Dáithí is a hero and both he and his family should be commended for their campaigning and with that in mind, we call on Belfast City Council to grant Dáithí the freedom of the city and we ask that this process is expedited due to the introduction of Dáithí's Law on the 1st June.

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This law will undoubtedly save lives and by granting Dáithí the freedom of the city, we will not only be giving Dáithí the due recognition he deserves but we will also help raise much needed awareness of this life saving legislation coming into effect.”

Lord Mayor
Chairperson