

Waiving of Tree Preservation Charges for the Removal of Trees - 1857 Leslie Street - Don Parkway

(City Council on November 23, 24 and 25, 1999, adopted this Clause, without amendment.)

The North York Community Council recommends the adoption of the following report (September 20, 1999) from the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, and that the monies collected in the amount of \$14,502.00 be allocated for tree planting in Don Parkway:

Purpose:

This report provides information regarding a Motion to the Community Council from Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong that the Tree Preservation Charges for 1857 Leslie Street be waived and that the amount of these charges be applied to improvements to the local area.

Source of Funds:

Staff and equipment to remove these trees and their stumps is \$3,800.00. The City would lose an asset worth \$10,702.00. The total amenity value plus removal costs are \$14,502.00.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that since North York Community Council has approved the removal of the trees, such removals should be conditional on the applicant paying the standard tree removal and amenity costs, a total of \$14,502.00.

Background:

There is currently a Building Permit Application (B99-03241) at this address. The original evaluation of the site included 19 trees consisting of 4 Colorado Spruce trees and 15 Austrian Pine trees ranging in size from 27 to 45 cm in diameter. The amenity value plus removal costs of the trees total \$37,512.00. Eleven of these 19 trees are actually located on a City Easement (Instrument No. 552992) and are the responsibility of the property owner. The remaining eight trees are situated on the City road allowance and have a total amenity value plus costs of \$14,502.00.

Conclusion:

As trees are valuable assets to the quality of life in a community, it is recommended that the funds for the value of the trees to be removed be used for replacement tree planting within the local area and not for other specific amenities related to the project. Waiving the costs for tree removal and amenity value would set an undesirable precedent across the City.

Coniferous trees provide a broad range of beneficial qualities when planted in appropriate locations. If City Council permits the funds from the removal of the trees to be used for replacement tree planting, it is recommended similar coniferous species be selected for Kirkwood or Mossgrove Park which are located in close proximity to the development site.

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