



Joe Pantalone

Deputy Mayor
City of Toronto

Councillor's Offices:
City Hall, 2nd Floor
100 Queen Street West, Suite C47
Toronto ON M5H 2N2 Canada



*Saturday Community Office • 9-11am
CHIN Building (By appointment)
622 College Street • Ground Floor*

Friday, January 11, 2008

Chair and Members
Park and Environment Committee

**Re: Tree By-law Amendment
(Item PE 12.3 on January 16, 2008 Agenda)**

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to support the main thrust of the proposed amendment to City owned and private trees. In particular, the proposed fee schedule represents a refinement that needs to be implemented.

With regards to the Issuance of Permits, Section 813-16, I would like to suggest changes, outlined in my recommendations below, that would continue the Councillor's consultative role in determining when permits to injure or remove healthy trees are considered by the Director of Urban Forestry. My experience is that, often, decisions are engineering, rather than organically driven. Councillors are able to add a perspective to such decisions that, in my experience, is better in protecting and enhancing soft landscaping areas and the urban forest (I have many personal experiences in this regard).

With regards to Notice, Section 813-17, I am in opposition to the removal of the opportunity of residents to submit written objections to Urban Forestry in regards to Notices of posted applications to injure/remove healthy trees. Written objections are a matter of public record that hold all of us accountable. In my opinion, more accountability, not less...is required with regards to the threatened urban forest.

Thank you for your consideration.

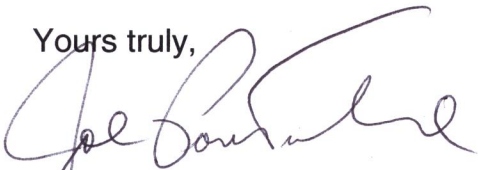
Recommendation that the report be amended so that:

1. the requirement to post Notice and Councillor consultation for the injury/destruction of trees if plans already have been approved by the OMB, City Councillor, Committee of Adjustment continue

unless the tree removal of each specific tree has been properly authorized by those regulatory bodies;

2. the posting of a Notice, to allow for community input, continue where trees are growing on top of (or beside) underground parking structures;
3. that the present procedure for injury/removal of trees in cemeteries' day-to day operations continue as at present; and
4. the present opportunity for residents to submit written objections to Urban Forestry in regards to Notice (to injure/remove) continue.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe Pantalone", written over a large, faint circular mark.

Joe Pantalone
Deputy Mayor
City of Toronto

JP/ss: