

**Sign Variance - 621 Bloor St W**

<b>Date:</b>	February 25, 2010
<b>To:</b>	Toronto and East York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Director, Toronto Building, Toronto and East York District
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 19 – Trinity-Spadina
<b>Reference Number:</b>	2010TE060 10 120177 ZSV 00 ZR

**SUMMARY**

This staff report is about a matter for which the Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

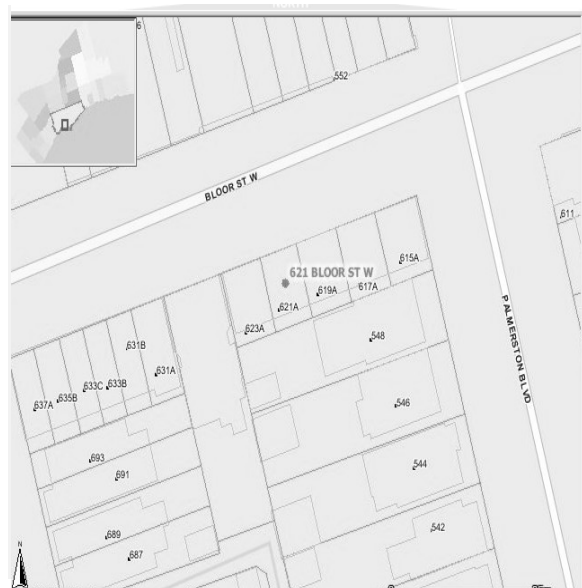
This report reviews and makes recommendations on a request by Steve Wolowich of Astral Media Outdoor, L.P., on behalf of Byung Sun Chun for approval of variances from Chapter 297, Signs, of the former City of Toronto Municipal Code to permit, for third party advertising purposes, replacement of an existing legal non-conforming illuminated roof sign with a newly designed illuminated roof sign containing a horizontally rotating scroll copy attribute located on top of a two-storey building at 621 Bloor Street West.

Staff recommends refusal of this application. The variances are major and not within the general intent and purpose of the Municipal Code.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Toronto Building Division recommends that:**

1. Toronto and East York Community Council refuse the request for variances permit, for third party advertising purposes, replacement of an existing legal non-conforming illuminated roof sign with a newly



designed illuminated roof sign containing a horizontally rotating scroll copy attribute located on top of a two-storey building at 621 Bloor Street West.

### Financial Impact

The recommendations in this report have no financial impact.

### ISSUE BACKGROUND

The property is located west of Bathurst Street, on the south side of Bloor Street West in an MCR zone. The property contains a two-storey listed historic building with retail uses at grade level. The applicant is seeking permission to replace, for third party advertising purposes, an existing legal non-conforming illuminated roof sign with a newly designed illuminated roof sign containing a horizontally rotating scroll copy attribute for third party advertising, at 621 Bloor Street West.

The sign does not comply with Chapter 297, Signs, of the former City of Toronto Municipal Code in the following ways:

Sign By-law Section and Requirements	Applicant's Proposal	Required Variance
1. Chapter 297-10D (16)	To install, for third party advertising purposes, an illuminated roof sign containing a horizontally rotating scroll attribute, in an MCR zone.	A third party roof sign located on a building in an MCR zone is not permitted.
2. Chapter 297-10.B.(2)	To install, for third party advertising purposes, an illuminated roof sign containing a horizontally rotating scroll attribute.	Unless specifically permitted by other provisions of this chapter, signs that rotate or which contain tri-vision panels, animated copy, changeable copy or electronic message display copy are not permitted.
3. Chapter 297-10E	The proposed illuminated roof sign is located less than 20.0m from a lot in R zone.	An illuminated third party sign located less than 20.0m from a lot in R zone is not permitted.
4. Chapter 297-10F (1)	The sign is located less than 60.0m from other third party signs located in the vicinity.	A third party sign is required to have a separation distance of minimum 60.0m from other third party sign in the vicinity.

5. Chapter 297-10D (16)	The height from grade to the top of the proposed sign is 14.7m.	The 14.7m sign height from grade to the top of sign exceeds by 4.7m, the maximum 10.0m sign height permitted.
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**COMMENTS**

At its meeting of April 24, 1995, City Council passed By-law 1995-0229 to amend Chapter 297 of the Municipal Code to prohibit roof signs in all mixed-use CR, MCR and RA zone districts in the former City of Toronto. The prohibition resulted from a study of signage along the City’s “Main Streets” which detailed the unattractive appearance of roof signs within the mixed-use zone districts and from adjacent residential districts as well as the negative effect on skyline views. The By-law does not permit the replacement of signs or their attributes, so as not to prolong their life span. In this instance, the proposal to replace the existing illuminated roof sign with a newly designed illuminated roof sign containing a horizontally rotating scroll attribute at 621 Bloor Street West, which is not permitted under the current by-law.

The variances are required because the proposed replacement third party sign is not permitted on a building located in an MCR zone. A variance is also required because the particular attribute which would see the copy scrolling horizontally, is not specifically permitted in the current sign by-law. The sign is higher than permitted and the sign does not meet the 60.0m separation distance requirement from other third party signs located in the vicinity.

Staff can advise that roof signs under the new sign by-law recently approved by Council are a specifically prohibited sign type and accordingly any approval under the new sign by-law would require a site specific amendment and could not be approved under the variance process.

This application clearly contradicts the City's prohibition of roof signs and its clear objective to prohibit this type of signage under the current by-law. It is staff’s opinion that permitting a roof sign, by way of a minor variance application would undercut the clear intent of City policy and would undermine the integrity and the spirit of the Municipal Code.

Staff recommends refusal of this application. The variance is major and not within the general intent and purpose of the Municipal Code.

**CONTACT**

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**SIGNATURE**

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Mario Angelucci, Acting Director, Toronto Building  
Toronto and East York District

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: Site Plan

Attachment 2: Sign Details



