



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### 56 Garfield Avenue – Application to Remove a Private Tree

<b>Date:</b>	January 24, 2014
<b>To:</b>	Toronto and East York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
<b>Ward:</b>	Ward 27 – Toronto Centre - Rosedale
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2014\Cluster A\PFR\TE30-022514-AFS#18893

#### SUMMARY

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This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree situated in the rear yard of 56 Garfield Avenue. The application indicates the reason for removal is that the tree has become too large for the backyard.

The subject tree is a little-leaf linden (*Tilia cordata*) measuring 37 cm in diameter. The tree is healthy and in good condition structurally and botanically. Urban Forestry does not support removal of this tree.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

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**The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:**

1. City Council deny the request for a permit to remove the privately owned little-leaf linden tree at 56 Garfield Avenue.

#### Financial Impact

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

#### COMMENTS

An application was received from the owner of 56 Garfield Avenue for a permit to remove a 37 cm diameter, privately owned, little-leaf linden tree situated in the rear yard of the property. The application indicates the reason for removal is that the tree has become too large for the backyard.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and found that it is healthy and in good condition structurally and botanically. The canopy is full with no signs of dieback and no visible exterior deadwood. The trunk integrity is good with no visible signs of decay, cavities, or other structural weaknesses.

As required under *Section 813-19, of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, a Notice of application sign was posted on the subject property for the minimum 14-day period in order to provide an opportunity for comment by the community. No comments were received in response to the notice.

On November 13, 2013, a permit to remove the tree was denied by Urban Forestry. The owner is appealing the decision to deny the permit.

Should City Council approve this request for tree removal, in accordance with *Section 813-20 of City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, approval must be conditional upon the provision of satisfactory replacement planting. As a condition of permit issuance, the property owner is proposing to plant one 50 mm caliper tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) in the north-west corner of the rear yard. In this instance, it would be appropriate to require the applicant to provide five (5) replacement trees, in a combination of planting and cash-in-lieu.

Trees improve the quality of urban life and contribute greatly to our sense of community. They are aesthetically pleasing and soften the hard lines of built form and surfaces in an urban setting. Trees contribute to the overall character and quality of neighbourhoods. Studies suggest that social benefits such as crime reduction and neighbourhood cohesion can be directly attributable to the presence of trees.

The environmental benefits of trees include cleansing of air, noise and wind reduction, and protection from ultraviolet radiation. Trees reduce rainwater runoff thereby reducing soil erosion and lowering storm water management costs. They also contribute to moderation of temperature extremes and reduction of the urban heat island effect by providing shade during the summer.

Trees provide many economic benefits, including the enhancement of property values. Homes with mature trees have higher value when compared to similar types of homes in similar locations without trees. Mature trees are associated with reduced home energy consumption. Air conditioning costs are lower in a home shaded by trees and heating costs are reduced when trees break the winter cooling effects of wind. Trees are a community resource, which can make the city more attractive to investors, tourists and prospective residents, thus contributing to growth and prosperity.

The little-leaf linden tree at 56 Garfield Avenue is a valuable part of the urban forest. With proper care and maintenance this tree has the potential to provide the property owner and the surrounding community with benefits for many years to come. Urban Forestry, therefore, cannot support removal of this tree.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Jason Doyle  
Director of Urban Forestry  
Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division

## **ATTACHMENT**

Attachments 1 and 2 – Photos of the 37 cm diameter little-leaf linden tree situated in the rear yard of 56 Garfield Avenue.



