City Council

Motion without Notice

MM28.31	ACTION			Ward: 11
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130 Bloor Street West - Application to Alter and Remove Heritage Attributes Noted in the Heritage Easement Agreement - by Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Mayor John Tory

* This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair. * This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.

Recommendations

Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Mayor John Tory, recommends that:

1. City Council consider the report (February 1, 2021) from the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning.

Summary

The property at 130 Bloor Street West includes an apartment on its 13th and 14th floors that is designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act and subject to a Heritage Easement Agreement. The purpose of the Heritage Easement Agreement is to conserve the "historical, architectural, contextual, aesthetic, scenic and cultural heritage characteristics and conditions" of the property in perpetuity.

The "Torno" apartment, named for its original owners, is one of very few residential properties in Toronto to include interior features as heritage attributes. The subject apartment was constructed in 1960 and is a rare example of Modern architecture associated with the internationally-recognized architect Philip Johnson and, as noted in the Heritage Impact Assessment by ERA Architects Inc., it is "a landmark of Toronto residential architecture." Philip Johnson is best known for his work within the periods of Modern and Post-modern architecture and the Torno apartment is a rare example of his design aesthetic in Canada. The apartment is also a unique example of residential design reflecting a Modern aesthetic as expressed through interior heritage attributes.

The applicant proposes to alter the subject apartment and remove a number of the interior attributes identified in the Heritage Easement Agreement. The Heritage Easement Agreement requires that the City make a decision in respect to the proposed changes within 90 days of receiving all the information. City Council authority is also required under s.33 of the Ontario Heritage Act and City staff do not have delegated authority to approve or deny these alterations under the Municipal Code Chapter 103 - Heritage.

The Toronto Preservation Board considered this matter at its meeting of January 29, 2021, and supported the staff recommendation that the City Council approval of the proposal be limited to certain works.

In order to ensure that the owner has received notice of the Council's decision within the required 90 day period, it is necessary for a Council decision to be made at its meeting on February 2 and 3, 2021.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM28.31

(February 1, 2021) Report from the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning on Application to Alter and Remove Heritage Attributes Noted in the Heritage Easement Agreement for 130 Bloor Street West (http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-163325.pdf) (January 29, 2021) Transmittal letter from the Toronto Preservation Board on Application to Alter and Remove Heritage Attributes Noted in the Heritage Easement Agreement for 130 Bloor Street West (http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-163327.pdf)