Date: November 5, 2013
To: Scarborough Community Council Committee Members
Re: Character Communities in our Suburbs

Recommendation:

1. Scarborough Community Council request the Director, Community Planning Scarborough District, in consultation with the Director of Toronto Building, Scarborough District, to report to Scarborough Community Council to confirm whether the recent construction activity (overbuilding) that occurred in the Seven Oaks Community would in future be regulated in the new City-wide Zoning By-law (By-law Number 569-2013) enacted by Council on May 9, 2013.

Background

I believe in strong balanced communities where neighbourhoods are well designed to create a sense of cohesiveness while maintaining the character of the homes already in place. The City of Toronto has many unique suburbs whereby the characteristic of the homes provide a neighbourhood its charm making them distinctive.

However, there are instances where new additions or renovations come into conflict with the community's landscape as with recent construction activity in the Seven Oaks Community in Ward 43. In certain cases these additions or new homes can be very large and do not fit within the character of the neighbourhood.

Development in the Seven Oaks Community was previously regulated by the Morningside Community Zoning By-law No. 11883, as amended which did not contain regulations for maximum building length, maximum floor area, number of stories or minimum rear yard setbacks.

This Motion requests that the Chief Planner in consultation with the Chief Building Official report back on how the new City-wide zoning by-law would regulate overbuilding preventing additions or new homes from being constructed that are out of character in a neighbourhood.

Sincerely,

City of Toronto
Scarborough East Ward 43

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c.c. Yvonne Davies, Committee Clerk