STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED

186 Davenport Road – Application to Remove a Private Tree

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<th>Date:</th>
<th>March 8, 2013</th>
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<td>To:</td>
<td>Toronto and East York Community Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>From:</td>
<td>Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation</td>
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<td>Wards:</td>
<td>Ward 27 – Toronto Centre-Rosedale</td>
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<td>Reference Number:</td>
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**SUMMARY**

This report recommends that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately owned tree.

An application was received requesting a permit for removal of two (2) privately owned trees in the rear yard, which includes a honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) and a weeping willow (*Salix × sepulcralis*). The owner is requesting tree removal as he is concerned that trees near buildings pose a risk.

A permit will be issued for removal of the honey locust tree as it is in poor condition. The weeping willow tree measures 127 cm in diameter. The tree has been well maintained and is currently in fair to good condition, structurally and botanically. Urban Forestry does not support removal of this tree.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

1. City Council deny the request for a permit to remove the privately owned weeping willow tree at 186 Davenport Road.

**Financial Impact**

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

An application was received from the owner of 186 Davenport Road for a permit to remove two (2) privately owned trees on the subject property. The owner is requesting removal of both trees "to reduce the risk associated with trees being in risk zones should there be any failure of limbs or tree."

The first tree is a 42 cm diameter honey locust located in the rear yard. Urban Forestry supports removal of this tree as it is in poor condition as the stem was previously girdled. A permit to remove this tree will be issued. As a condition of permit issuance, the owner will be planting one (1) replacement tree.

The second tree is a 127 cm diameter weeping willow tree located in the rear yard. An Arborist Report submitted with the application indicates the tree is in fair to good condition with minor deadwood. Staff inspected the tree and confirmed that it is in fair to good condition, with no evidence that the tree is unsafe.

As required under Section 813-17, 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 objection by the community. Six (6) letters of objection were received and are on file with Urban Forestry.

Issuance of a permit to remove the 127 cm diameter weeping willow tree was refused by Urban Forestry, as the Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III does not support the unnecessary removal of healthy trees. The owner has appealed the decision.

The City's Urban Design Guidelines for the Bloor-Yorkville/North Midtown http://www.toronto.ca/planning/urbdesign/pdf/blooryorkville_final.pdf specifically makes reference to existing trees in the Davenport Terrace area providing visual privacy between the mixed use buildings along Davenport Terrace and the houses at a lower elevation along Pears Avenue. The subject property is located in the Davenport Terrace area. The Guidelines indicate that existing trees and vegetation should be retained and new planting material added as necessary. While the design guidelines were created specific to development, it speaks of the importance of protecting and retaining trees at this location.

The owner proposes to plant one replacement tree for the weeping willow tree. However, staff are recommending that should City Council approve this request for a permit to remove the tree, approval should be conditional upon the owner agreeing to plant one (1) large maturing tree on the property, and providing cash in lieu of tree planting for nine additional large maturing trees for planting elsewhere in the city.

The weeping willow at 186 Davenport Road is a significant and valuable part of the urban forest. With proper care and maintenance it should continue to provide benefits to
the property and the surrounding community. 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

ATTACHMENTS
Attachment 1 – Photo of the 127 cm diameter Weeping Willow at the rear of 186 Davenport Road
Staff report for action on 186 Davenport Road - application to remove a private tree