122 Brooklyn Avenue – Application to Remove a Private Tree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>August 2, 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To:</td>
<td>Toronto and East York Community Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From:</td>
<td>Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward:</td>
<td>Ward 30 – Toronto-Danforth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference Number:</td>
<td>P:\2013\Cluster A\PFR\TE26-091013-AFS#17907</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUMMARY

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 122 Brooklyn Avenue. The owner is requesting tree removal as he feels the tree is a poor species in a poor location.

The subject tree is a tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) measuring 64 cm in diameter, that is in 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 tree-of-heaven at the rear of 122 Brooklyn Avenue.

Financial Impact

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

COMMENTS

An application was received from the owner of 122 Brooklyn Avenue for a permit to remove a 64 cm diameter privately owned tree-of-heaven situated in the rear yard. The
owner indicated on the permit application that he is requesting tree removal as he feels
tree-of-heaven is a poor species selection and that the tree is poorly located, extending
over parking pads and heaving pavement. An arborist report submitted with the
application indicates the tree to have good health and structure.

This property is serviced by a public laneway to the rear, which provides access to
parking in the rear yard. Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and found that it is in
good condition structurally and botanically. Asphalt was applied up to the base of the
tree; the tree did not encroach into the paved parking area. Under these circumstances, it
is expected that over time, any type of pavement will heave. Pavement should never be
applied up to the base of a tree. It is unknown when this work occurred. The pavement
should be removed from around the base of the tree.

Tree-of-heaven is a very fast growing species that is highly resistant to pollution and
other urban stresses. It is a resilient tree that is able to populate a variety of areas within
the city, including laneways, that other tree species are not be capable of surviving in.
Urban Forestry does not support removal of this tree.

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 objection by the
community. No letters of objection were received.

On June 4, 2013, a permit to remove the tree was denied by Urban Forestry. The owner
is appealing the decision to deny the permit.

As a condition of permit issuance, the property owner is proposing to plant one (1)
replacement tree. 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 owner providing satisfactory
replacement planting. In this instance, it is appropriate to require the applicant to provide
four (4) replacement trees in a combination of planting and cash in lieu.

The tree-of-heaven tree at 122 Brooklyn Avenue is a valuable part of the urban forest.
With proper care and maintenance, it has the potential to provide the community with
benefits for years to come. Urban Forestry, therefore, cannot support removal of this
tree.

**CONTACT**
Mark Ventresca, Supervisor Tree Protection and Plan Review, Urban Forestry Branch,
Tel: 416 392-7390, Fax: 416 392-7277, Email: mventre@toronto.ca
SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENT

Attachments 1 and 2 – Photos of the 64 cm diameter tree-of-heaven tree at the rear of 122 Brooklyn Avenue.
64 cm diameter tree-of-heaven at the rear of 122 Brooklyn Avenue
64 cm diameter tree-of-heaven at the rear of 122 Brooklyn Avenue