



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### 17 Millington Street – Application to Remove Private Trees

<b>Date:</b>	October 28, 2013
<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 28 – Toronto Centre-Rosedale
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2013\Cluster A\PFR\TE28-111913-AFS#18511

#### SUMMARY

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This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove two (2) privately owned trees located in the rear yard of 17 Millington Street. The application indicates the reason for removal is because the trees are too large for the confined space, and this tree species should not have been planted within this area.

The subject trees are two (2) honey locusts (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) measuring 31 and 38 cm in diameter. The trees are healthy and in fair condition structurally and botanically. Urban Forestry does not support removal of these trees.

#### 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 honey locust trees located in the rear yard of 17 Millington Street.

#### Financial Impact

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

#### COMMENTS

An application was received from the owner of 17 Millington Street for a permit to remove two (2) honey locust trees measuring 31 and 38 cm in diameter. Both trees are

located in the rear yard of 17 Millington Street. The application indicates the reason for removal as: "both trees are too large for the confined growing space; the species should not have been planted within this area." The property owner further advised that she has tried to sell her house twice and the feedback received is that the rear yard is largely unusable because the tree stems take up so much of the extremely limited patio space. The property owner has stressed to Urban Forestry that she wants to remove the trees so that she can redesign the rear yard in order to sell the house.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the trees and found that they are healthy and in fair condition, structurally and botanically. There is little deadwood within the canopy and no obvious signs of decay, cavities, or structural weakness. The trees are approximately 2.6 m apart. The tree branches have been pruned up and, therefore, the height of the tree canopy does not interfere with usage of the rear yard. The canopy has been pruned back from the rear property line by the neighbours to the south (288 Carlton Street) as they apparently have concerns about tree debris landing in their pool.

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.

A permit to remove the trees 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. The applicant has stated that due to lack of space on site, the owner prefers to provide cash-in-lieu of planting two trees, or the planting of smaller ornamental trees that are slower growing. In this instance, it would be appropriate to require the applicant to provide eight (8) replacement trees, in a combination of planting and cash-in-lieu.

The two (2) honey locust trees at 17 Millington Street are a valuable part of the urban forest. With proper care and maintenance they have the potential to provide the community with benefits for years to come. Urban Forestry, therefore, cannot support removal of these trees.

## **CONTACT**

Mark Ventresca, Supervisor Tree Protection and Plan Review, Urban Forestry Branch,  
Tel: 416 392-7390, Fax: 416 392-7277, Email: [mventre@toronto.ca](mailto:mventre@toronto.ca)

## **SIGNATURE**

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

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachments 1 and 2 - Photos of the 31 and 38 cm diameter honey locust trees located in the rear yard of 17 Millington Street.

38 cm diameter honey  
locust tree

31 cm diameter  
honey locust tree





38 cm diameter  
honey locust tree

38 cm diameter  
honey locust tree

Attachment 2

