



**Confederation of Resident & Ratepayer
Associations in Toronto**

December 1st, 2015

To Parks and Environment Committee
Chair Michelle Berardinetti,
Cllrs. Maria Augimeri, Joe Cressy, Sarah Doucette, Mike Layton and Gord Perks

Mayor John Tory and Members of Council
Toronto City Hall

100 Queen Street West,
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Atten: Ms. Marilyn Toft, Manager
Council Secretariat Support

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PE8.5: Revisions to the Tree By-laws heard on November 23rd, 2015 by Parks and Environment
Reference No. P:\20156\Cluster A\PFR08-112315-AFS#20848
Advancing to Council with Bills attached on December 9, 2015

The Confederation of Resident and Ratepayer Associations (CORRA) is asking that the Report be sent back to the Parks and Recreation Committee given the substantive changes being proposed, and in particular, the exclusion of councillors and the public in regard to "as of right" applications to remove trees.

CORRA, therefore, recommends:

That agenda item PE8.5 Revisions to the Tree By-laws, Reference No. P:\20156\Cluster A\PFR08-112315-FS#20848, be referred back to the Parks and Environment Committee as a deputation item to be held after notice has been given to all affected persons including resident and ratepayer groups, tree preservation groups, environmental groups and naturalist groups.

Reasons:

The penultimate thrust of the report is to reduce notice in "as of right" applications without adequately defining the same.

The request for delegation on page 6 of the report without allowing for a bump up by a Councillor is unacceptable. Basically, the recommendation neuters Councillors while making them the brunt when the public becomes aware that a mature tree has been approved to be removed with one day's notice to the public advising of the approval.

Presently reducing the notice period from 14 days to 0 days is a substantive shift in the process. Such a shift should not occur without notice to the public that such a change is being contemplated.

The reality is that CORRA notes the inadequacy of the process, arborist reports, and the broad definition of "as of right" as problematic.

It is CORRA's position that trees play an important environmental role and are critical to the character of many areas. This is also recognized in the Official Plan. This proposal appears to conflict with the drive to ensure the tree canopy is maintained. Once lost, they are not easily replicated.

Please advise CORRA of Council's decision.

Yours truly,

William H. Roberts, CORRA Chair

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Direct email: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]