

**West Lansing Homeowners Association**

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

To: Parks and Environment Committee Chair Michelle Beradinetti,

Cllrs. Maria Augimeri, Joe Cressy, Sarah Doucette, Mike Layton, Gord Perks



Mayor John Tory and Members of Council

Toronto City Hall

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PE8.5: Revisions to the Tree By-laws heard on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 West Lansing Homeowners Association (WLHA) 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.

**WLHA, 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.

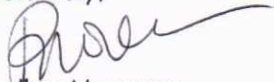
Presently reducing the notice period from 14 days to 0 days is a substantive shift in the process. Such a shift should not occur without notice to the public that such a change is being contemplated.

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

It is WLHA'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 WLHA of Council's decision.

Yours truly,



Pauline Noonan

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West Lansing Homeowners Association  
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