Monday, May 31, 2016

Councillor Carmichael Greb
Ward 16, Eglinton – Lawrence
Email: councillor_carmichaelgreb@toronto.ca

SUBJECT: NY14.9 – Request to remove private tree from 11 Brooke Ave

I am writing to ask you to reconsideration your May 10th North York Community Council vote to remove the large healthy tree at 11 Brooke (NY14.9) when it comes before Toronto City Council on June 7th and your policy regarding requests to remove both private and city trees in general.

I have attached a table setting out applications that came before Council since last fall, the decisions adopted by both Community Councils and City Council and your voting record. Of the 13 that came before City Council, the Minutes show that you supported removal of 12 of the 13. On the 13th, you voted to approve removal (NY12.7) at North York Council, but reversed your position when it came to City Council and voted with the majority of City Council (31-3) to deny the request to remove a private tree.

As highlighted on the city website: “Trees are the lifelines of our city. Trees beautify neighbourhoods. Trees soften the harsh texture of concrete buildings. Trees offer privacy screens, protect people from the sun’s burning rays, and absorb harmful gases, and other pollutants. Trees provide a natural habitat for birds and wildlife, protect soils from erosion, cool streets and homes in the summer, and protect us from winds in the winter. Trees are the predominant contributor to Toronto’s image as a “green” and beautiful city.”

Every day we are witnessing the destructive reality of Climate Change and one must consider the very positive contribution the tree canopy provides to the environment, beauty and the landscaping in Ward 16.

LPRO members Judi Denison, Harold Smith and I wrote letters to you in advance of the May 10th North York Community Council opposing the removal of the large healthy tree at 11 Brooke (NY14.9). You voted to approve the requested removal, however the majority of NY Council voted to refuse permission. Its fate will now be considered at Toronto City Council on June 7th.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding the above and hope that you will reverse your position when the Application for 11 Brooke (NY14.9) is considered by Toronto City Council on June 7th and support the protection of this tree.

Sincerely,
Arlena Hebert
President
c.c. City Council