



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

70 First Avenue – Application to Remove a Private Tree

Date:	May 19, 2016
To:	Toronto East York Community Council
From:	Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Ward 30 – Toronto-Danforth
Reference Number:	P:\2016\Cluster A\PFR\TE17-061416-AFS#22942

SUMMARY

This report requests that City Council deny the application for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located on the boundary of the properties of 70 First Avenue and 72 First Avenue. The applicant for the property at 70 First Avenue has requested the removal of the tree because it sheds branches and has a lean.

The subject tree is a tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) measuring 64 cm in diameter. Urban Forestry does not support the removal of this tree as it is healthy and maintainable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. City Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located at 70 First Avenue.

Financial Impact

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

COMMENTS

Urban Forestry received an application from an agent acting on behalf of the property owner of 70 First Avenue for a permit to remove one (1) privately-owned tree located in the rear of the property along the boundary between 70 First Avenue and 72 First Avenue. In accordance with the City's Boundary and Neighbour Tree Procedure, the co-

owner of the boundary tree has been notified in writing that an application to remove the tree has been received.

The subject tree is a tree of heaven measuring 64 cm in diameter. The request to remove this tree has been made to address the concern that the tree has shed branches and has a lean.

The arborist report submitted with the application describes the subject tree to be in "moderate" condition. The report mentions the soil around the roots of the tree has been compacted as a result of the property owners parking their cars around the tree. The report describes the tree to be "weak wooded" and not appropriate for residential properties.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and determined that the tree is healthy and in good condition. The tree has grown on an angle as a result of adapting to its surrounding environment and is stable. No evidence of recent limb failure or that the tree is suffering from compaction-related stressors was observed. No evidence of decay or other structural concerns was observed by Urban Forestry staff during inspection of the tree.

As required under *Section 813-19, of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article III*, a Notice of application was posted on the subject property for the minimum 14-day period, in order to provide an opportunity for comment by the community. Urban Forestry received three (3) submissions in opposition to the tree's removal. One (1) submission in support of the tree's removal was received from the tree's co-owner who resides at 72 First Avenue.

A permit to remove the tree was denied by Urban Forestry. The owner is appealing this decision.

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*, permit approval must be conditional upon the provision of satisfactory replacement planting. As a condition of permit issuance, the applicant is proposing to plant a 2 m tall white pine tree (*Pinus strobus*) as replacement for the existing tree. However, in this instance, it would be appropriate for the owner to provide five (5) 50 mm caliper large-growing native shade trees as replacement trees which can be achieved in a combination of on-site planting and cash-in-lieu of planting.

Trees improve the quality of urban life and contribute greatly to our sense of community. They help to soften the hard lines of built form and surfaces in an urban setting. Trees contribute to the overall character and quality of neighbourhoods. Studies suggest that social benefits such as crime reduction and neighbourhood cohesion can be attributed to the presence of trees.

The environmental benefits of trees include cleansing of air, noise and wind reduction, and protection from ultraviolet radiation. Trees reduce rainwater runoff thereby reducing

soil erosion and lowering storm water management costs. They also contribute to moderation of temperature extremes and reduction of the urban heat island effect by providing shade during the summer.

Trees provide many economic benefits including the enhancement of property values. Homes with mature trees have higher value when compared to similar types of homes in similar locations without trees. Mature trees are associated with reduced home energy consumption. Air conditioning costs are lower in a home shaded by trees and heating costs are reduced when trees mitigate the cooling effects of wind in winter. Trees are a community resource which can make the city more attractive to investors, tourists and prospective residents thus contributing to growth and prosperity.

It is the goal of the City of Toronto to increase the city's tree canopy to 40 percent. The loss of trees in the city due to the ice storm experienced in late December 2013, compounded with additional tree loss due to the presence of the Asian longhorned beetle and the emerald ash borer make the preservation of all healthy trees more necessary now than ever.

The tree of heaven at 70 First Avenue is a valuable part of the urban forest. With proper care and maintenance this tree has the potential to provide the property owner and the surrounding community with benefits for many more years. Urban Forestry, therefore, does not support removal of this tree.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Photograph of the tree of heaven measuring 64 cm in diameter located in the rear yard of 70 First Avenue

Attachment 2 - Photograph of the tree of heaven measuring 64 cm in diameter located in the rear yard of 70 First Avenue



