

Application to Remove a City Tree – 209 Rosedale Heights Drive

Date: March 21, 2018

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Director, Urban Forestry, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Wards: Ward 27 – Toronto Centre-Rosedale

SUMMARY

This report recommends that City Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) City-owned tree located on the road allowance fronting 209 Rosedale Heights Drive. The application indicates the reason for removal is to address concerns over the irregular form of the tree.

The subject tree is a little-leaved linden (*Tilia cordata*), measuring 65 cm in diameter. The Tree By-law does not support the removal of this tree as it is healthy and maintainable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council deny the request for a permit to remove one (1) City-owned tree located on the road allowance fronting 209 Rosedale Heights Drive.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

DECISION HISTORY

There is no decision history regarding this tree removal permit application.

COMMENTS

Urban Forestry has received an application for a permit to remove one (1) City-owned tree located on the road allowance fronting 209 Rosedale Heights Drive. The tree is a little-leaved linden tree measuring 65 cm in diameter. The request to remove this tree has been made to address concerns over the irregular form of the tree due to a history of pruning.

The arborist report that accompanied the application assessed this tree to be in fair condition.

Urban Forestry staff inspected the tree and determined that it was healthy and maintainable both botanically and structurally. The tree has been pruned over the years in accordance with good arboricultural practices to provide clearance for overhead utility conductors.

When reviewing applications for tree removal, Urban Forestry staff are guided by City policies and by-laws including the *City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article II*, more commonly referred to as the City Street Tree By-law. The City Street Tree By-law does not have a mechanism that would allow the removal of the subject tree based on the concerns stated in the tree removal permit application.

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

Should City Council approve this request for removal of the City-owned tree, in accordance with *Section 813-10.B of City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 813, Trees, Article II*, permit issuance must be conditional upon the owners providing payment of the appraised value of the tree to be removed (\$8,312.00), agreeing to have the tree removed at their expense, as well as providing satisfactory replacement planting. In this instance, it would be appropriate for the owner to provide five (5) replacement trees which can be achieved in a combination of on-site planting and cash-in-lieu of planting. The owner will also be required to provide a tree planting security deposit to cover the cost of removal, replacement and the cost of maintenance for a period of two years for all trees to be planted on City property.

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 per cent. 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 little-leaved linden tree at 209 Rosedale Heights Drive 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. In accordance with the City Council-approved Strategic Forest Management Plan, Toronto's Official Plan and the Tree By-law, this tree should not be removed.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Jason Doyle
Director, Urban Forestry
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Photograph of the little-leaved linden tree measuring 65 cm in diameter
Attachment 2 – Photograph of the little-leaved linden tree measuring 65 cm in diameter

Attachment 1 – Photograph of the little-leaved linden tree measuring 65 cm in diameter



Attachment 2 – Photograph of the little-leaved linden tree measuring 65 cm in diameter

