

TE15.7 – Application to Remove a Private Tree 127 Willow Avenue

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OPTIONS WE EXPLORED PRIOR TO REQUESTING TREE REMOVAL

1. Explored hiring “Not Far From the Tree” an organization that harvests fruit/nuts on private property
 - Unable to harvest as there is no safe area to place ladder to harvest (due to steep stairs & slope)
2. Treat tree with Nitrogen fertilizer to inhibit fruiting
 - Spoke to several tree & horticultural experts, who said this would only slightly inhibit fruiting & that it would be not be effective in eliminating the majority of the fruit

REASONS FOR REQUESTING REMOVAL:

PROMIXITY TO STEEP STAIRS

- Proximity of tree to steep concrete staircase & slope causes significant tripping hazard due to golf ball sized black walnuts
 - Our small children aged 3 & 6 have already fallen several times due to the scattered walnuts on the stairs
 - In two instances, I was able to catch my 3 year old before she fell completely down concrete stairs

REASONS FOR REQUESTING REMOVAL:

PROMIXITY TO STEEP STAIRS

- Staircase is concrete and approx. 18 stairs
- Very close to the tree
- Dangerous for anyone coming and going from our house
 - We try to stay on top of all the debris but it is not possible at all times
 - Couriers, visitors, including our 70+ year old parents are also at risk of falling and suffering serious injury





REASONS FOR REQUESTING REMOVAL: BUCKLING WALKWAY ATOP STEEP SLOPE

- Tree planted too close to home & causing walkway to buckle
- The tree roots are buckling the walkway in the front of our home
 - Sits atop a steep slope – making it a very dangerous for anyone if they tripped and fell
- As noted in Urban Forestry's report "heaving may occur due to freezing and thawing which creates spaces for tree roots to grow into"
 - Since we can't control our climate, we can't prevent this from continuing to happen
 - Consulted landscapers to repair damaged walkway but they refused citing that the tree roots will continue to cause buckling and make the walkway even more dangerous



REASONS FOR REQUESTING REMOVAL: TREE IS A SAFETY HAZARD

- **We are willing to plant whatever trees are necessary to replace it so that there is no negative effect on the Tree Canopy in the City**
 - **We have cleared an area in our backyard to plant a tree and have selected a linden or maple tree**
- As parents, we put our children's safety first, which is why we are willing to do whatever is necessary to have the tree removed and make our home safe for them
- Should be able to provide an entrance to our house that doesn't endanger our two small children each time they enter and exit the house.

REASONS FOR REQUESTING REMOVAL: TREE IS A SAFETY HAZARD

- As homeowners, we would like to provide a safe exit and entry to our home for anyone that needs to use the stairs outside our home
- **If this tree was on city property, near a large, steep staircase, it would most certainly be removed to ensure no one tripped and fell and sustained injuries or worse**
- With regards to this species of tree, and Urban Forestry's reluctance to allow a removal for fear of setting a precedence:
 - Tree is uniquely placed in a location unlikely to appear again in subsequent cases:
 - Proximity of tree to large, steep staircase (18+ stairs)
 - Steeply sloped, small front yard

REASONS FOR REQUESTING REMOVAL: TREE IS A SAFETY HAZARD

Is the City prepared to put a tree's welfare over the
welfare of its residents?

Is the City prepared to put the safety of a tree over the
safety of children?