

**City Council****Motion without Notice**

MM36.36	ACTION			Ward: 3
---------	--------	--	--	---------

**Enhanced Tree Replacement Strategy for Dwight Avenue Sidewalk Installation - by Councillor Mark Grimes, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle**

*\* This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

*\* This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

**Recommendations**

Councillor Mark Grimes, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle, recommends that:

1. If the City decides to remove the twelve trees to accommodate the sidewalk along Dwight Avenue, City Council direct the General Manager, Transportation Services, Executive Director, Engineering and Construction Services, and Director of Urban Forestry to:
  - a. incorporate a 3:1 replanting ratio to compensate for the removal of the twelve City-owned trees on Dwight Avenue, in a combination of on-site planting and cash-in-lieu of planting. Seventeen trees are to be planted on-site. The remaining nineteen trees are to be planted by Urban Forestry in the immediate area, in consultation with local Councillor and Toronto District School Board Trustee;
  - b. ensure that replacement trees along Dwight Avenue are a minimum of 80mm caliper (diameter), and fast-growing, large shade species, to the satisfaction of the Director, Urban Forestry;
  - c. establish a maintenance plan to ensure the replacement trees survive; and
  - d. take out an ad in the local newspaper, and circulate a written informational piece to residences in New Toronto and Mimico neighbourhoods, in consultation with the local Councillor for street boundaries, outlining the project and rationale for the tree removals, and the Council-directed enhanced replacement plan in Parts 1a to 1c above.

**Summary**

A sidewalk installation on Dwight Avenue between Birmingham Street and Maple Street in Ward 3 will result in the removal of twelve trees in the work zone, adjacent to Second Street Junior Middle School. Project staff have explored alternative options, and confirmed that there is no way to accommodate the sidewalk, and maintain the existing trees. There is significant

concern among the local community that too many neighbourhood trees are being removed through various building and construction projects.

Ten of the twelve trees are tree species that are no longer being planted due to various impacts such as susceptibility to forest pests, like the Emerald Ash Borer or invasive qualities. As we know, because of these types of pests, it is likely that Ash trees in the City will require removal in the future. While the loss of these trees is significant, there is an opportunity to offset the removal, and bolster our tree canopy by increasing the replanting ratio, and planting healthier trees now.

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM36.36