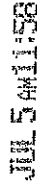


3068, Balmoral Av

Burlington. L7N 1E4.

July 4, 2019.



Subject: Development File # 540-02-A-158/18

Re # 3061 Balmoral Avenue.

To All Members of Council.

We understand that the new owners of the subject property have applied for permission to remove a City owned linden tree on the Balmoral Av side of the property. Also that this matter is on the Council agenda for discussion on July 8<sup>th</sup> or a later date.

We live at # 3068, Balmoral Av which is immediately diagonally opposite the subject property. We do not support a decision to approve removal of this linden tree.

Existing Linden Tree.

The linden tree is well established, 16" in diameter, some 65 plus feet tall and was planted 30 years ago as a succession tree for the aging maple trees. It was strategically placed by the City between two such maples. It provides a significant contribution to the tree canopy. It is absolutely required to fill the void created by the eventual demise of the adjoining maples whose life expectancy is 5/10 years according to knowledgeable people.

Replacing it with small new trees in other locations will not provide an equivalent tree canopy for a very long time.

Precedent.

An unfortunate precedent is established if the City allows removal of an extremely healthy and important City owned tree for the convenience of a property owner in return for some financial payment. A statement that this does not set a precedent is ineffective and will not stop the success of future applications.

Alternatives.

The owners and architects of the proposed new home chose to locate the front on Hart Ave. and with the garage/driveway on Balmoral Ave. The linden tree was clearly a problem with this arrangement. The architects wrote on Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 2018 that the new house "must face Hart Ave". However this is not correct as this is an owner's choice for perhaps one particular design.

Clearly there are many home designs for the site which would permit a driveway on Hart Ave. without impacting any City owned tree. For over 90 years there has been a house on the site with the driveway on Hart Ave.

Other designs should be considered, none of which would involve elimination of any City owned tree.

Resident's Consultation.

We would hope that the opinion of the owners of the 3 homes most impacted by the application to remove the tree will be taken into account – ie 3060, 3068 and 3067 Balmoral Ave. None of these home owners are in favour. Opinions from homeowners not in the immediate vicinity have little relevance.

We trust that the City will not allow the removal of a City owned tree when such action can be avoided with alternative arrangements on the site.

Thank you for considering our concerns and suggestions.

*Yours sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Hammett', written in a cursive style.

Richard Hammett.

