



**SUBJECT: Public Tree Removal Report – 4029 Spruce Avenue**  
**TO: Environment, Infrastructure & Community Services Cttee.**  
**FROM: Roads, Parks and Forestry Department**

Report Number: RPF-11-21

Wards Affected: 4

File Numbers: N/A

Date to Committee: May 6, 2021

Date to Council: May 18, 2021

---

**Recommendation:**

Approve the request by the applicant to remove one (1) City-owned tree as outlined in roads, parks & forestry department report RPF-11-21; and

Instruct the applicant, Salman Cheema, to provide compensation for the City-owned tree removal by providing cash-in-lieu of replacement totaling \$3,000.00. The funds will provide for new tree plantings elsewhere in the City which includes care and maintenance for the first two (2) years; and

Direct that a tree permit be obtained for the removal and the associated development related permit fee of \$680.00 plus HST

**PURPOSE:**

**Vision to Focus Alignment:**

- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment

---

**Background and Discussion:**

The subject property is located at the northeast corner of Spruce Avenue and Arden Crescent (See Fig. 1).



**Figure 1: Subject Property, 4029 Spruce Avenue**

A request for Forestry review as part of the consolidated pre-building permit application was made on February 18, 2021. The application submitted was to construct a second story addition and to create an additional dwelling unit in the basement. As part of the proposed works, the resident is also looking to make modifications to the existing

driveway. Forestry staff inspected the site on March 3, 2021. Upon review, it was identified that the proposed removal and pruning requirements associated with the project concerned a City-owned tree.

In accordance with the City of Burlington's Public Tree By-law 68-2013, Section 1.19 states, "*The City Arborist shall not issue a Tree Permit for Trees located on Public Property immediately abutting Private Property for which a development application has been submitted, until such time as the development application has been approved and Council has also approved the removal of those trees*".

Given this, a request was made by the resident for Forestry to prepare a report to Council for the removal request.

### **Strategy/process**

One (1) City-owned tree is proposed to be removed at the recommendation of the applicant's Arborist due to its conflicts with the proposed driveway work that will be located within the Minimum Tree Protection Zone for the subject tree, and additional canopy pruning requirements to accommodate the proposed project works and equipment access. More specifically, additional stress to the tree is expected due to the encroachment requirements within the MTPZ for both root and canopy pruning requirements, as described within the Arborist Report submitted as Appendix C.

The subject tree that is proposed for removal is located along Spruce Avenue and is identified as follows:

1. Tree No. 1: Kwanzan Cherry (*Prunus serrulata*): DBH 91cm (Multi-stem 44, 47cm)

The tree exhibits evidence of decline and the canopy was pruned in the last six (6) months by the City at the request of the resident. Given the existing health and structural condition of the tree combined with the fact the tree has been recently pruned, the tree will not have had sufficient time to recover from the previous pruning event before the proposed pruning requirements associated with the project are to commence. This additional stress, combined with the proposed construction activity, will likely lead to further decline of the tree at an accelerated rate. As such, Forestry is in support of the removal of the above noted subject tree under the provision that cash-in-lieu fees are provided to the City as compensation for canopy loss.

Refer to Appendix A – Tree Inventory and Compensation Form completed by City staff, Appendix B – Site Photographs for additional details and Appendix C – Arborist Report.

### **Options Considered**

The review of the subject lot was completed to assess the proposed driveway and construction activities. There is an existing fence that borders the east side of the existing driveway, therefore performing work to the east side is not feasible.

---

### **Financial Matters:**

A total of \$3,000.00 shall be paid by the applicant as compensation for the tree removal, in addition to the permit fee in the amount of \$680.00 + HST. These funds will be utilized to replace the loss in canopy within the City.

### **Total Financial Impact**

Not applicable.

### **Source of Funding**

Not applicable.

### **Other Resource Impacts**

Not applicable.

---

### **Climate Implications**

The removal of trees is always a concern as they provide the most cost-effective measure of carbon sequestration, in addition to providing a host of other ecological benefits associated with climate change. It is critical that in cases where trees must be removed, that they are sufficiently compensated for in the interest of replacing the canopy loss long-term.

---

### **Engagement Matters:**

---

### **Conclusion:**

The City's Forestry section has reviewed the proposed tree removal, and supports the removals as per the recommendations listed above.

---

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa Torchia

Supervisor, Forest Protection

(905) 333-6166 ext. 6121

**Appendices:**

- A. Tree Inventory and Compensation Form
- B. Site Photographs
- C. Arborist Report

**Notifications:**

Name : Salman Cheema

[salmancheema1@gmail.com](mailto:salmancheema1@gmail.com)

**Report Approval:**

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Counsel.