

ILLEGALSIGNS.CA



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Rami Tabello
IllegalSigns.ca
359 Palmerston Blvd
Toronto ON M6G 2N5
416-822-3696

Norm Girdhar
Community Planning,
Toronto & East York District
City Hall, 100 Queen St W
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Re: February 17, 2003 Staff Report for 83 Bloor Street West

Dear Norm:

I am writing to you on behalf of the IllegalSigns.ca a grassroots, citizens' organization dedicated to fighting the illegal privatization of Toronto's visual environment.

This letter is in regards to your Staff Report dated February 17, 2003 in which you reported to Toronto Community Council that the two non-conforming CBS roof signs at 83 Bloor Street West were in fact legal non-conforming.

In the Staff Report, you wrote:

"Planning staff researched archived files and have concluded that the roof signs in question are in fact legal non-conforming. The City of Toronto granted a permit to erect a roof sign at 83 Bloor Street West on May 28, 1956, under application number 38732."

We attempted to examine permit 38732. Georgina Karounos of Buildings Records informed is that, although permit 38732 was issued in 1956, she does not have any record of the plans and specifications of the sign permitted under this permit. The permit on file with the Buildings Department is therefore incomplete.

We are wondering if you were able to examine plans and diagrams associated with this permit. If so, how did you obtain these plans and diagrams? Are they somewhere on file with the Buildings Department that Ms. Karounos missed? Were they misplaced after you examined them? Did CBS provide you with plans?

Examining those plans and diagrams against the as-built sign is the only way to determine that a roof sign in a CR zone is legal non-conforming. As you are keenly aware, the Former City of Toronto Municipal Code prohibits the alteration of roof signs in CR zones. Any alteration of the sign, including the addition of illumination to the sign, or the addition of another ad-face, would render the sign illegal non-conforming.

We write this letter mainly because we have found that it is rare to find a sign permit for a billboard issued in the 1950s that has illumination; and it is rarer still to find a double-sided illuminated permit from the 1950s. On the other hand, it is quite common to see a 1950s single-sided, non-illuminated sign illegally upgraded into a double-sided illuminated sign.

Sincerely,

Rami Tabetlo,
Coordinator, IllegalSigns.ca

Cc: Georgina Karounos, Buildings Records