

NOTICE OF MOTION

Window Safety Devices

Moved by: Councillor Davis

Seconded by: Councillor Moscoe

SUMMARY:

City of Toronto property standards require landlords to install window safety devices on windows more than 2 metres off the ground in multi-residential buildings. These safety devices prevent windows from opening more than 10 cm, and protect children from falling out of open windows.

On June 3, 2007, an 18-month old child fell 28 storeys to the ground from a high-rise apartment building. The child fell through an open window that did not have a safety device installed.

A follow-up investigation of the building revealed that many windows lacked the window safety devices. Enforcement of the requirement to install window safety devices is enforced by City of Toronto Municipal Licensing and Standards, which is often challenging because tenants remove the devices in order to get more air.

As the heat of the summer approaches, and windows in apartment buildings are left open for air, now is the time to ensure that tenants and landlords are aware of the safety hazards of windows left open and the requirement for safety devices to be installed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Toronto City Council direct the Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards to mount an aggressive window safety campaign in an effort to prevent another tragedy like this one, including translating and distributing flyers to tenants, landlords, and family-serving agencies; public ads in areas with a high proportion of rental buildings; and working with partner organizations such as the Federation of Metro Tenants Associations to educate landlords and the public about this safety measure.
2. The Executive Direction of Municipal Licensing and Standards report back to the Licensing and Standards Committee meeting on September 11, 2007, with a city-wide assessment of the level of compliance with the requirement to install window safety devices, and options and recommendations for improving compliance, including education, enforcement, and other program options.

According to Chapter 27, Council Procedures:

Fiscal Impact Statement provided	
Should have Fiscal Impact Statement prior to debate Requires two-thirds to waive requirement if Council wishes to debate	*
Should be referred to Licensing and Standards Committee Requires two-thirds vote to consider at this meeting	(√)
Motion Recommendations are Urgent	

* Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer to advise.