



Councillor Frances Nunziata
Chair, Etobicoke – York Community Council

Toronto City Council
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August 17, 2009

Attn: Councillor Howard Moscoe
Chair, Licensing & Standards Committee

From: Councillor Frances Nunziata

Re: Licensing of Lodging Homes

I would like to request that staff report on the feasibility of creating a City-wide bylaw based on the standards currently used in the former City of Etobicoke as it pertains to the licensing and regulation of lodging homes.

In addressing concerns raised to my office regarding alleged elder abuse in a retirement home located in my ward, it has become apparent that, with the exception of the former City of Toronto and the former City of Etobicoke, the City of Toronto's by-laws do not adequately allow for the regulation and monitoring of personal care homes or retirement homes, which house the vulnerable such as the elderly or disabled. Both the former City of Toronto and the former City of Etobicoke, through Public Health and Municipal Licensing and Standards respectively, require that these types of lodging homes be licensed, and set minimum standards and requirements for them through their by-laws for rooming houses and lodging houses (former City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 285 and former City of Etobicoke Municipal Code, Chapter 166, respectively). The rest of the former municipalities, including the former City of York in which my ward is located, do not have the requirement to be licensed, nor do they have a set of standards by which these types of homes are required to operate.

In the past, reports have come forward recommending that the City require that all personal care homes and retirement homes be licensed, which would result in annual inspections of the premises, as well as monitoring by Public Health Nurses of the care being provided. Council has previously taken the position that licensing not be implemented until the provincial government establish province-wide standards and fund their enforcement, something which remains to be seen.

It is our responsibility to the citizens of Toronto to take action when capable to prevent the vulnerable from being mistreated; the former cities of Toronto and Etobicoke were able to do this through their by-laws - the amalgamated City of Toronto should do the same.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frances Nunziata". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frances Nunziata