



*City Councillor – Ward 17 • Davenport*

April 7, 2016

TO: Members of the Licensing and Standards Committee

RE: **2015 MRAB ANNUAL REPORT  
ENFORCEMENT OF STAIRWELL RAILINGS AND WALL-MOUNTED HANDRAILS**

**SUMMARY:**

Beginning in January of 2015, Toronto's Multi-Residential Apartment Building (MRAB) Audit teams stopped issuing work orders for infractions around stairwell railings and wall-mounted handrails that do not comply with the Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 629– Property Standards. MLS Staff now issue a letter notifying landlords of the infraction and suggest that they look into the matter.

As members of the Licensing and Standards Committee, it is our job to ensure that tenant safety is our number one priority. When it comes to the issue of tenant safety, there can be no compromise. I have been notified of concerns from tenant associations and first responders, such as the Toronto Professional Fire Fighters' Association and the Toronto Paramedics' Association, who have expressed serious concerns over the lack of enforcement around non-compliant stairwell-railings and wall-mounted handrails.

In order to assess the effectiveness of the new process (issuing a notice of infraction, as opposed to issuing an order of compliance) I am requesting that Staff provide information in the Annual MRAB Report that includes the number of infractions that were followed-up with and resolved before and after the City stopped issuing work orders. My priority is ensuring that when an infraction is found, the City has a fair process that includes adequate follow-up and the enforcement of our by-laws and safety standards in a uniform manner.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. The Licensing and Standards Committee direct that the Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards include the following information in the 2015 MRAB Annual Report:
  - a. Between January 2013 and January 2014, how many work orders were issued for non-compliant stairwell railings, wall-mounted handrails and guardrails through MRAB audits? In how many of these cases were MLS Staff able to follow-up and ensure compliance?
  - b. After the City stopped issuing work orders, between January 2015 and January 2016, how many notices were issued for non-compliant stairwell railings, wall-mounted handrails and guardrails following MRAB audits? In how many of these cases have MLS Staff followed up and been able to ensure compliance?

Cesar Palacio  
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