



July 3, 2019

To: Deputy Mayor Ana Bailão, Chair, Planning & Housing Committee
Members, Planning & Housing Committee

From: Daryl Chong, Greater Toronto Apartment Association

Re: PH7.9 Emergency Management and Vital Service Disruption Response in Apartment Buildings

The Greater Toronto Apartment Association (“GTAA”) represents the interests of the multi-family, purpose-built rental housing industry. Our members own and manage more than 150,000 units of multi-family, purpose-built rental housing in the GTA, mostly in the City of Toronto.

We closely monitored the unfortunate electrical incidents in St. James Town. We then initiated several meetings with the Electrical Safety Association (ESA), Toronto Fire Services (TFS) and Municipal Licensing & Standards (MLS) to better understand what happened and how we could prevent similar occurrences across the city.

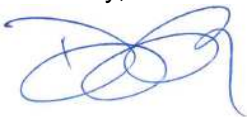
We share the common goal of safely housing our residents in our apartments and apartment communities.

Providing purpose-built rental housing is complex with many rules, regulations and standards, each the responsibility of municipal and provincial governments, their administrative authorities and departments, and others.

A main role for GTAA is to provide our members with education. Over the past few years we have hosted more than a dozen seminars featuring senior officials from OEM, ESA, TSSA, TFS and MLS to provide apartment owners and managers with the latest information. We proactively educate our members to meet regulatory compliance in cooperation with the appropriate bodies that govern each aspect of providing rental housing.

GTAA generally supports the recommendations in the report. GTAA has the knowledge and experience to assist and can even take the lead in the creation of a vital services disruption plan, in partnership with the city officials, relevant administrative authorities/organizations, and certified tradespeople. This will include the distribution of the plan and a series of education seminars to ensure regulatory compliance.

Sincerely,



Daryl Chong
President & CEO
Greater Toronto Apartment Association