



HURON
SUSSEX
RESIDENTS
ORGANIZATION

14 July, 2021.

To the Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council:

The Huron-Sussex Residents' Organization (HSRO) represents the residents of Huron-Sussex, a community bounded by Spadina, St. George, Harbord and Bloor St. West. We live in the north-west quadrant of the University of Toronto campus.

HSRO fully supports the staff recommendation to license fraternities and sororities as multi-tenant houses. Exemptions to licensing may have made sense in the distant past when the fraternities and sororities may have been more closely affiliated with the university, as happens on many US campuses. This is not the case in Toronto where, even though most members are U of T students, frats and sororities are completely independent and operate their houses outside of a regulatory framework.

Too many of the houses are in major states of disrepair, to the point where the health and safety of residents and guests are in question. The main (and easy) source of fundraising carried out by the fraternity chapters (other than the room and board presumably contributed by member residents) seems to be weekend alcohol-fueled parties where an unlimited number of participants buy tickets and drinks. These events and the aftermath are not compatible with residential neighbourhoods, precisely where most of the houses are situated. The situation is particularly serious in the houses located north of Bloor St.

HSRO has seen at least three ward Councillors try to deal with the lack of safety and bad behaviour of the fraternities, only to be met with an obstinate desire on the part of the frats to maintain the status quo, combined with a major sense of entitlement to continue their activities unimpeded, regardless of their impact on neighbourhoods or, frankly, the law. The City now has an opportunity to act – please do this for the sake of the house residents, their guests and the surrounding neighbourhoods.

Sincerely,



Julie Mathien,
Co-President,
Huron-Sussex Residents' Organization.