



Janet DAVIS

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TO: Chair and Members
Community Development and Recreation Committee

RE: **Re-establishing a Tenant Issues Subcommittee**

Over half of Toronto's residents are tenants. Whether they live in a high-rise apartment or condominium buildings, above a store or in a house, tenants rely on the City and its services in many ways. Tenants have a demographic profile with needs and concerns that are different from property owners.

Recent reports by the United Way and others identified the growing inequality in apartment neighbourhoods. The affordability of rents, the state of repair of buildings, safety, and access to transit and other services are just some of the issues tenants struggle with every day.

Between 1999 and 2010, the City had a subcommittee that discussed and made recommendations on tenant issues to the Community Development and Recreation Committee. The first Tenant Defence Committee was established in 1999 to consider and allocate Tenant Defence grants for tenant groups to fight above-guideline rent increases, and to support tenant outreach and education. In subsequent years, the Tenant Defence Committee gave advice to Committee on a number of tenant-specific issues such as electricity sub-metering.

The voice of tenants has been absent at City Hall for too long. I believe the Community Development and Recreation Committee should establish, once again, a subcommittee focused on issues affecting tenants.

In order to develop terms of reference, membership and structure for the subcommittee, I would propose the following motions:

Motion:

1. The Community Development and Recreation Committee establish a subcommittee called the Tenant Issues Subcommittee that has the following membership and terms of reference:
 - a) The Subcommittee will have a membership of 3 members of the Community Development and Recreation Committee;
 - b) The Subcommittee will make recommendations to and report through the Community Development and Recreation Committee;
 - c) The Subcommittee will meet a maximum of 4 times per year;

- d) The Subcommittee interim Terms of Reference will be to:
 - i) Receive reports from staff on the disposition of the Tenant Defence Fund grants and outcomes related to above-guideline rent applications and other uses of the grants;
 - ii) Receive reports on the "automatic rent reduction" related to property assessment
 - iii) Provide advice on the service levels for the Tenant Defence Fund
 - iv) Provide opportunities for tenants to comment on staff reports that come before Committee and Council on issues that affect tenants such as Tower Renewal and other tenant related initiatives;
 - v) Provide advice on provincial policy and legislative changes affecting tenants in Toronto for the purpose of informing a City position or submission.
- 2. The Tenants Issues Subcommittee convene its first meeting in January to hear deputations from tenants, tenant organizations, and the general public on the terms of reference of the sub-committee;
- 3. The Subcommittee will report on the outcome of the meeting to the February CDRC with any proposed changes to the terms of reference and any additional resources necessary to support its work

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janet Davis".

Councillor Janet Davis,
Ward 31, Beaches-East York