

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM54.6	ACTION			Ward:All
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Changes to the 'Retirement Homes Act, 2010' by the Government of Ontario and its Impact on the City of Toronto's By-laws - by Councillor Chin Lee, seconded by Councillor Josh Matlow

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Community Development and Recreation Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Chin Lee, seconded by Councillor Josh Matlow, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, in consultation with Toronto Public Health, City Planning, any other City of Toronto Division involved with retirement homes, the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority (RHRA) and the Government of Ontario, to report back to the August 26, 2014 meeting of City Council, on what changes are required to bring the City of Toronto's by-laws in compliance with the updated Retirement Homes Act, 2010.

Summary

In 2010, the Government of Ontario adopted changes to the Retirement Homes Act, 2010, effective April 15, 2012, to better protect seniors living in these facilities. There appears to be confusion among residents and City staff on what role the City plays in licensing and inspecting retirement homes following changes to the Act.

The Act created the Retirement Home Registration Authority (RHRA), which gives licensing authority for retirement homes, and communications from RHRA stated that:

" all retirement homes are subject to city by-laws and must operate in accordance with them. Please also note that there is no community public consultation when an application is received, nor do neighbours have any input into licensing a retirement home."

Concerns and questions from residents have not been answered as clearly as desired, including:

- Does RHRA check with the City (compliance with city by-laws) prior to issuing the license?

- The RHRA started "routine" inspections on a three-year cycle in March 2014, while the City of Toronto inspects group homes annually. Are residents then more at risk?
- What are the City of Toronto's responsibilities as it pertains to retirement homes, especially non-profit senior community homes, under the updated Act?
- Is the City still responsible for conducting inspections at its long-term care facilities (e.g., food safety inspections, environmental health inspections, routine inspections and nursing inspections)?
- Who is responsible for maintaining property standards at retirement homes and who ensures this is done?
- Is the RHRA or the City responsible for public health inspection at retirement homes?
- What are the City of Toronto's responsibilities in regards to the building and fire codes at retirement homes?
- Who is responsible for safely evacuating bed ridden residents from the retirement home facility during an emergency?
- Who oversees the RHRA?

(Submitted to City Council on July 8 and 9, 2014 as MM54.6)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM54.6