



## TORONTO PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

39 Commissioners Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5A 1A6  
Telephone: 416-466-1167 Fax: 416-466-6632 E-mail: mail@torontofirefighters.org

Frank Ramagnano  
*President*

Damien Walsh  
*Vice President*

James Coones  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

To: Members of the Licensing and Standards Committee

Re: Non-Compliant Stairwell Railings

The Toronto Professional Firefighters' Association has always been proactive when it comes to building safety issues, which impact not only residents but also first responders in times of emergency. We would like to add our voice to those expressing concern in ensuring that important building safety devices comply with current regulations.

Apartment stairwell railings, handrails and guardrails that do not meet the Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 629, are inherently dangerous and pose a safety risk to building tenants and first responders, especially during times of emergency.

Firefighters and first responders regularly use apartment building stairwells when responding to emergency situations, including evacuation of building residents. In any emergency situation where visibility may be compromised, it is critical that residents and emergency workers be able to count on these safety devices.

The Toronto Municipal Code requires railings to meet a certain height- so no one can fall over them. The Code also specifies a certain distance between pickets, to ensure that small children or pets cannot get stuck or fall through them. Railings and guardrails that meet the code are not climbable and therefore safe.

Stairwell railings and guardrails in multi-residential apartment buildings that do not meet the Code represent a serious health and safety concern to the TPFPA. Our Association recognizes the importance of ensuring that these safety features meet building code standards.

We ask that the Licensing and Standards Committee work with all stakeholders in order to demonstrate all necessary diligence in ensuring full compliance with the relevant bylaw.

Sincerely,

Frank Ramagnano  
President  
Toronto Professional Firefighters' Association