



Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario  
Centre ontarien de défense des droits des locataires

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January 12, 2016

Chair and Members  
City of Toronto Budget Committee  
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Chair and Committee members,

**Re: Today's meeting - Agenda item BU29.1 – 2017 Capital and Operating Budgets - 2017 Preliminary Operating Budget Notes - Municipal Licensing and Standards (ML&S) – funding for 12 additional Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) staff to implement proposed new regulatory regime for Rental Apartment Buildings**

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I am writing on behalf of the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO) with comments for your consideration regarding the above-mentioned matter.

ACTO is a community legal clinic, funded by Legal Aid Ontario, with a province-wide mandate. We work for the advancement of human rights and social justice in housing for low-income Ontarians through legal advice and representation, law reform, community organizing, and education and training. The clinic also coordinates the Tenant Duty Counsel Program across Ontario which provides legal information assistance to self-represented tenants appearing at the Landlord and Tenant Board.

At its December 2016 meeting, Toronto City Council approved the recommendations from the Licensing and Standards Committee for a new regulatory by-law for rental buildings with an amendment that directed the Executive Director of ML&S to “report to the Budget Committee, during the 2017 Operating Budget Process, on the program budget and the twelve additional Full-Time Equivalent staff required to implement the program proposed.”<sup>i</sup>

ACTO is very supportive of this initiative which we hope will improve the housing conditions for tenants by increasing effectiveness of the City in maintaining minimum property standards. However, we believe this can only be accomplished if more resources are provided for inspections and enforcement. Currently, ML&S 2017 Preliminary Operating Budget Notes only reference 6 rather than 12 new enforcement staff to implement the new regulatory by-law.<sup>ii</sup>

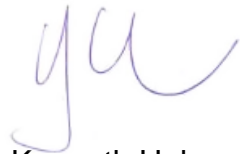
We ask that the Budget Committee respect the direction of City Council and ensure that funding to hire 12 new enforcement staff in ML&S is approved in the 2017 Budget.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this request.

Yours truly,

**Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario**

Per:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'KH', is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Kenneth Hale

Director, Advocacy and Legal Services

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<sup>i</sup> <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.LS15.3>

– Council decision on Agenda item LS15.3 - Rental Apartment Buildings: Results of Public Consultation and Proposed Regulatory Regime

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2017/bu/bgrd/backgroundfile-99483.pdf>

– 2017 Preliminary Operating Budget Notes - Municipal Licensing and Standards