



John Tory
Mayor

April 19, 2017

To: Executive Committee
From: Mayor John Tory
Re: Crime and Evictions for Cause in Toronto Community Housing

One of the first actions I took when coming into office was striking a Task Force to review Toronto Community Housing's service to its residents. A significant amount of work has been completed to improve the lives of residents since the Task Force was struck. Following the Task Force's interim report, I asked that TCHC complete an action plan on the Task Force's interim recommendations to immediately improve the lives of tenants. One of the items requested was to improve safety and security in TCHC.

TCHC has worked hard to improve the safety of tenants since that time. They have hired a full complement of CSU officers, revamped their deployment model, conducted 15 safety audits in 2016, and upgraded over 1,000 security cameras in more than 50 communities.

Despite the good work being done by Toronto Community Housing, tenants still do not feel safe in their homes and communities. The level of insecurity experienced by residents in too many of our buildings remained the same or worsened in recent months. While this is largely due to the misconduct of a small group of people, the City needs more help to protect law-abiding TCHC residents.

Currently, a tenant who is evicted for serious behavioural misconduct, such as drug dealing or domestic violence, is immediately able to apply for rehousing from TCHC for affordable rental units or market units.

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Violence, drug dealing, and intimidation have no place on TCHC property. Currently, residents are afraid to speak up and CSU officers have no ability to keep known offenders out of TCHC buildings or to expel criminals from the property.

Furthermore, greater ability for information sharing between the Toronto Police Service and CSU officers would help ongoing investigations that can result in termination of tenancy following due process before the Landlord and Tenant Board.

The safety of residents in Toronto Community Housing and the safety of residents across Toronto should be a priority for any elected official. Changes to Provincial legislation will support Toronto's goals of creating safe communities and will give residents peace of mind that their home is theirs to enjoy.

Recommendations:

Mayor John Tory recommends that:

1. City Council request the Province of Ontario to amend *The Housing Services Act, 2011*, or other relevant legislation, to allow social housing providers the discretion to refuse to rehouse a tenant who has already been evicted for behavioural misconduct.
2. City Council request the Province of Ontario to amend *The Trespass to Property Act, 1990* to allow for residents of Toronto Community Housing to provide a statement to explicitly refuse the entrance of specified person(s) enforceable by Special Constables.
3. City Council request the Province of Ontario to amend *The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1990* to allow for Special Constables of Toronto Community Housing to obtain information regarding criminal offences on Toronto Community Housing property when that information is needed for proceedings at the Landlord and Tenant Board.

Sincerely,

John Tory
Mayor