



EX26.45.5

Huron Sussex Residents Organization

May 19, 2017.

To the Chair and Members of the Executive Committee:

The Huron-Sussex Residents' Organization (HSRO) represents the residents of Huron-Sussex, a community bounded by Spadina, St. George, Harbord and Bloor St. West. We live in the north-west quadrant of the University of Toronto campus.

HSRO fully supports removing the exemptions to comply for fraternities and sororities from the rooming house regulations. The exemptions may have made sense in the distant past when the fraternities and sororities may have been more closely affiliated with the university, as happens on many US campuses. This is not the case in Toronto where, even though most members are U of T students, frats and sororities are completely independent and operate their houses outside of a regulatory framework, either university-based or municipal.

Too many of the houses are in major states of disrepair, to the point where the health and safety of residents and guests are in question. The main (and easy) source of fundraising carried out by the fraternity chapters (other than the room and board presumably contributed by member residents) seems to be weekend alcohol-fueled parties where an unlimited number of participants buy tickets and drinks. These events and the aftermath are not compatible with residential neighbourhoods, precisely where most of the houses are situated. The reports of an increase in the seriousness and number of sexual assaults taking place at frat parties are alarming. The situation is particularly serious in the houses located north of Bloor St.

HSRO has seen at least the last three ward Councillors try to deal with the lack of safety and bad behaviour of the fraternities, only to be met with an obstinate desire on the part of the frats to maintain the status quo combined with a major sense of entitlement to continue their activities unimpeded, regardless of their impact on neighbourhoods or, frankly, the law. The City now has an opportunity to act – please do this for the sake of the house residents, their guests and the surrounding neighbourhoods.

Sincerely,

Julie Mathien,
Co-President,
Huron-Sussex Residents' Organization.