

From: [Annemarie Brissenden](#)
To: [Clerk](#)
Subject: Item LS25.2 - letter from KKG House Corporation for adding to communications and distributing to members
Date: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 9:56:15 AM
Attachments: [KKG letter May22.pdf](#)

Hello,

I am submitting a letter from the KKG House Corporation regarding item LS25.2. Please add it to the communications for LS25.2, and distribute it to members.

Thank you for all managing all the communication to the Mayor and council on this issue.

Sincerely,

Annemarie Brissenden

President, Kappa Kappa Gamma House Corporation (32 Madison Avenue)

annemarie.brissenden@kkg.org | 416.844.6284

May 22, 2018

Mayor John Tory
City Hall, 100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Tory:

I am a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma, which has a chapter house at 32 Madison Avenue. I am writing because I do not support item LS25.2 and respectfully request that you vote against it at Toronto City Council.

Our fraternity was founded in 1870. With over 140 chapters in the United States and Canada, we value sisterhood, academic excellence, leadership and philanthropy. Our Toronto chapter was founded over 100 years ago at the University of Toronto, and among our alumnae are several members of the Order of Canada, distinguished veterans and many women dedicated to politics and public service. We have called Madison Avenue home for over 40 years.

I'd like to correct three things you may have heard about our home.

1 - *We're essentially unregulated rooming houses*

We are not rooming houses. Our organizations are private associations, and our members live in homes that they themselves own, operate and organize as a single housekeeping unit.

Every chapter member is a member of the non-profit organization that owns the house. That non-profit organization is run by a house board that includes four members from the chapter, at least two of whom live in the house.

2 - *Fraternity and sorority houses are not safe*

The sponsors of LS25.2 would have you believe that our house is unsafe, even though our local councillor or anyone from municipal licensing and standards has never been inside our house. In fact, we are held to very high standards by both our international organizations and our insurers (to say nothing of the obligation we have toward our fellow members).

We must complete rigorous annual fire safety inspections and are required to file regular reports with our international governing body. Representatives from headquarters visit our house at least once or twice a year, and our eagle-eyed active alumnae are regularly at the house. We conduct annual fire drills, and all members of our chapter attend a yearly house orientation on our emergency procedures, house rules, the area's history and respect for our neighbours.

We do everything possible to make sure our members can rely on a home that is safe and welcoming.

3 - *We can't be reached and are not responsive to requests from the community, the city or the councillor*

It's not difficult to find us. We get water and property tax bills from the city, as well as regular notices about road closures, community meetings and movies being filmed in the area. If you google Kappa Kappa Gamma U of T, our website is one of the first results that comes up, and it lists our contact information. It seems the only person who can't reach us is the councillor!

We value the community that we live in. We participate in neighbourhood clean-ups, and support the Madison Heritage Conservation District – we're working to restore our front with heritage principles in mind. Until it closed, we regularly supported the St. Felix Centre after school program, and our members volunteer at soup kitchens and homeless shelters in the winter. We also attended the two stakeholder meetings held by Municipal Licensing and Standards as part of its review. We have not been approached by any residence organization regarding a complaint of any sort in at least 10 years, but if we had, we would have responded straight away.

Please vote against item LS25.2. Our houses are safe and responsive to the community. We are not rooming houses. Our organizations provide much-needed safe and affordable accommodation that's close to the university. Our chapter members and alumnae are in regular contact and we have strong links with our international governing body.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Annemarie Brissenden
President, Kappa Kappa Gamma House Corporation (32 Madison Avenue)
annemarie.brissenden@kkg.org