



Councillor Josh Matlow

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Tenant Issues Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Committee Members,

Toronto's rental housing market is rapidly becoming unaffordable for many people. Ontario's *Residential Tenancies Act*, 2006 (RTA) regulates private market rentals. Since the RTA came into effect in 2007, City Council has requested the Province to address several areas of concern. The *Rental Fairness Act*, 2017, improved tenant protections under the RTA by eliminating the post-1991 exemption, expanding rent control to all private units, and by removing extraordinary increases in utilities from costs that qualify for above the guideline rent increases.

However, the RTA still allows private market landlords to apply for a rent increase above the guideline (AGI) if:

- The landlord's costs for municipal taxes and/or utilities have increased by an extraordinary amount;
- The landlord did extraordinary or significant renovations, repairs, replacements or new additions to the buildings or to individual units; and
- The landlord's costs for security services increased, or the landlord began providing security services for the first time.

AGI applications are made at the Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB). Limited data on AGI outcomes is made publicly available by the LTB, limiting the City's ability to analyze the impact of AGIs on tenants. A clearer understanding of the scale and scope of AGIs in Toronto would allow the City to better develop programs and policies to meet the needs of residents.

Recommendations:

1. Tenant Issues Committee recommends that City Council request the Minister of the Attorney General, the Executive Chair of Social Justice Tribunals Ontario, and the Associate Chair of the Landlord and Tenant Board to expand the type of information available on Open Data to include a dataset on applications for a rent increase above the guideline, including the fields:

- Building address
- Number of affected units in the building
- Total rent for the building
- Type of application (i.e., capital expenditure, municipal taxes, security)
- For AGIs related to capital expenditures:
 - Estimated expenditures
 - Useful life
 - Year of rent reduction
- AGI Claim (%)
- Awarded AGI (%)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Matlow", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Josh

Josh Matlow, Toronto City Councillor
Ward 22 – St. Paul's