

City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM39.32	ACTION			Ward:All
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Protecting Toronto's Tenants from Extreme Heat - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata, recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to establish Heat Alert Days on which landlords can be directed to turn off heat and, if applicable, turn on air conditioning.
2. City Council request the Medical Officer of Health to establish the Heat Relief Network to promote locally available air-conditioned public spaces, as described in a presentation from Municipal Licensing and Standards to the February 9, 2018 meeting of the Tenant Issues Committee.

Summary

Toronto tenants have the right to a comfortable and healthy home. During last September's heatwave some residents reported temperature readings of over 30 degrees Celsius in their units as a result of their landlords turning on heat and/or not turning on air conditioning. Central air conditioning acts as ventilation in many older 'tower block' apartment buildings. If the air conditioning is turned off, there is effectively no ventilation within apartment units.

In response to the suffering of many Torontonians, Council unanimously endorsed a motion to direct the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, in consultation with other appropriate divisions, to hold consultations with tenants, landlords and other relevant stakeholders to identify potential solutions to effectively deal with heat in apartment buildings, including maximum heat in apartments and applicable dates in the heating bylaw and property standards bylaw, and to report back to the Tenant Issues Committee in the first quarter of 2018.

While there was a presentation on extreme heat in apartment buildings presented to Tenant Issues Committee, no recommendations were provided. The item was then brought to the Executive Committee where a request to report on additional items was made, including the development of a strategy to ensure that landlords do not exacerbate tenant discomfort through

not turning on air-conditioning or keeping heat on, in the event of a warm weather period prior to June 2, 2018.

To date, no report has been provided.

With the possibility of higher temperatures in May, this Motion authorizes the Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, to establish Heat Alert Days on which landlords can be directed to turn off heat and, if applicable, turn on air conditioning. This Motion also requests the Medical Officer of Health to establish a Heat Relief Network to promote locally available air-conditioned public spaces.

This Motion is urgent due to the possibility of warmer temperatures occurring prior to the next meeting of Council.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM39.32