

November 26, 2019

Sent via email: [councilmeeting@toronto.ca](mailto:councilmeeting@toronto.ca)

Mayor John Tory and Members of Council  
City of Toronto,  
City Hall, 100 Queen St. West  
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council ,

**Re: Amendments to Chapter 354, Apartment Buildings (Item PH10.4)**

I am writing on behalf of the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO) to express our strong support for the proposed amendments to Chapter 354, Apartment Buildings to be considered by City Council at its November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. ACTO is a community legal clinic funded by Legal Aid Ontario to provide legal services to low-income tenants across Ontario on the systemic issues that affect their ability to provide and maintain decent homes for themselves and their families.

Tenants are not currently aware of RentSafe and what is required of their landlords under the program. We support the recommendation to improve awareness of the program through improved outreach. In particular, we strongly support the budget for direct door-to-door engagement regarding tenant rights and responsibilities. Increased tenant engagement will build a stronger and more effective program.

ACTO also supports the proposal to create a rating system that displays the results of the RentSafe evaluation in a visible location at the building as well as on the RentSafe website. Rigorous enforcement of the requirements of this program is key to its success. Having more visible access to evaluation results will improve compliance.

We urge Council to adopt the entire package of amendments recommended by the Planning and Housing Committee to strengthen the RentSafeTO program and ensure improved health and safety for tenant households across the city. Tenants are counting on you to help ensure that they receive value for the ever-increasing rent that they pay.

Yours very truly,

**Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario**

per:



Kenneth Hale,  
Director of Advocacy and Legal Services