



March 26, 2019

Toronto City Council
12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Sent via email to: councilmeeting@toronto.ca

Dear Mayor and Council members,

Re: Expanding the City's Housing Allowance Program (MM5.2)

I am writing on behalf of the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO) to inform you of our support for the adoption by Council of the above-mentioned motion brought forward by Councillors Joe Cressy, Ana Bailão and Brad Bradford.

We agree with the Councillors that it is critical that a staff report on options to fund an expansion of the City's housing allowance be prepared and considered by the Planning and Housing Committee. This issue must be addressed urgently since, as the Councillors point out, the homelessness stream of the Housing Allowance program will stop the intake of new households this year without additional funding.

ACTO is a specialty community legal clinic, funded by Legal Aid Ontario, with a province-wide mandate. We assist low-income Ontarians through legal advice and representation, law reform, education and training, and community organizing. The clinic also coordinates the Tenant Duty Counsel Program (TDCP) across Ontario, providing free legal information and assistance to self-represented tenants appearing at the Landlord and Tenant Board.

The City is about to embark on the development process for its next 10-year housing and homelessness plan. We anticipate that this timely staff report on additional funding for housing allowances will help inform that process.

Yours very truly,

Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario

per:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "KH", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kenneth Hale,
Director of Advocacy and Legal Services