

From: [anita.dressler](#)
To: [councilmeeting](#)
Subject: My comments for 2021.EX23.4 on May 5, 2021 City Council
Date: May 3, 2021 5:04:25 PM

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the May 5, 2021 City Council meeting on item 2021.EX23.4, Implementing Tenants First: Creating a Seniors Housing Corporation

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

Mayor Tory and City Councillors

Approximately three years ago I had the opportunity to address this committee regarding OCHE. At that time some Councillors questioned me after my deputation. Councillor Paula Fletcher asked if I felt that OCHE should be offered to all TCHC tenants. I resoundingly answered in the affirmative. OCHE was created for Seniors to prevent eviction, for rent arrears. All tenants should have this valuable service, it is a lifeline for those in need.

After listening to Tenants First presentations last week, it was emphatically stated that there will be a two year agreement during transition for Seniors of the 83 Senior TCHC Buildings and then the City will have to come up with something.

However, at the Executive Committee Meeting it was stated by staff that OCHE will continue to serve Seniors leaving out the agreement clause and the aftermath.

Seniors were disheartened. The very good that was offered to us after the eviction and death of Al Gosling formerly of Arleta Place, TCHC. After eviction he wandered the streets and died in the cold stairwell alone, in the very building that he had been evicted from.

OCHE was created to avoid similar happenings.

OCHE became the only hope for our vulnerable seniors to protect them from evictions.

In 2020 Cynthia Summers, The Commission of Equity provided a report which shows the number of seniors helped and how many avoided evictions for rent arrears.

Seniors need the protection and security of OCHE in time of need.

Seniors now have the perception "Who cares, we are old and not needed."

But, we are vibrant members of our communities. Don't forget before COVID, we put in more volunteer hours than any other age group, saving the City and agencies millions of dollars.

It appears that AGEISM is the word of the day. The wall of silence is not acceptable nor is the fact of Seniors in 83 Senior Buildings losing OCHE.

Thank you for your kind indulgence in this matter

Anita Dressler

Chair of Seniors Voice

Chair of SAAC Senior Advisory and Seniors Advocacy Council