



September 29 2021

Sent via email - councilmeeting@toronto.ca

RE: Item 25.10 – A New Regulatory Framework for Multi-tenant Houses

Dear Mayor Tory and Toronto City Councillors,

I write today to express the Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness' (TAEH) strong support for the new regulatory framework for multi-tenant houses on the agenda at the October 1, 2021 City Council meeting.

TAEH commends the City for the vision of a human rights approach to recognizing multi-tenant houses as an important part of affordable housing options for everyone in Toronto, wherever they want to live, in the report accompanying Item 25.10. We urge you to vote in favour of its adoption. In so doing, you will contribute to our city's ability to prevent and end homelessness, as well as provide healthier, safer homes for lower-income Torontonians in all wards.

As you know, the TAEH is a network of partners reaching across the city, all united in the vision of ending homelessness. We also serve as your non-Indigenous Community Advisory Board, and co-chair the Toronto Housing and Homelessness Service Planning Forum with SSHA.

Our priorities include the existence of enough deeply affordable housing in Toronto to prevent and end people's homelessness. Only then will we achieve our shared goal, as committed to by Council in the Housing TO: 2020-2030 Action Plan, to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

There is no doubt that multi-tenant houses are a key part of Toronto's affordable housing stock. To maximize their use, and ability to meet City objectives of inclusion, addressing poverty and homelessness and furthering the right to housing, they must also be safe, of quality, accessible and available wherever people chose to live, in every part of the city.

The framework before you includes many strong ideas that the TAEH is pleased to support. These include taking a phased approach, a funding plan for upgrades, strategies for tenant and landlord outreach and an inter-divisional Housing-At-Risk Working Group. We look forward to continuing to work with the City on strengthening the opportunities regulating all multi-tenant houses bring.

We also look forward to helping sharpen measures within the framework to ensure that next steps do not create more homelessness. Even when implementing what we agree is a much-needed new approach to multi-tenant housing, we must ensure that there is no collateral damage to people currently living in them. We are pleased to see that the framework as tabled repeatedly states that this is not the City's intent.

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Committed to Ending Homelessness

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To conclude, the TAEH, and our many networks of partners, and most importantly the people we serve who struggle everyday to find decent housing that they can afford, are counting on City Council to approve this new regulatory framework for multi-tenant houses at your meeting on October 1st.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "KH" with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kira Heineck, Executive Director
Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness

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