



April 21, 2021

Re: Agenda Item PH22.12

Dear Planning and Housing Committee Members,

We are writing this letter in support of Agenda Item PH22.12, "Protecting Tenants - Protocols to Support Tenants in Case of Evacuation of Emergency Evictions"

We are also attaching a letter that we sent to Councillor Ana Bailão, the councillor for our ward, following the incident that took place at Brad Lamb's building, 1407 Bloor Street West.

On Saturday March 15th we saw our neighbours frantically moving out of their apartments in the middle of a pandemic. They shared that they had been evicted with only 24 hours notice and with no support from their wealthy landlord. They were not offered compensation for moving costs or support with finding alternative housing.

Our neighbours shared that Councillor Bailão had been in communication with them, but it was unclear to them, or to us, what supports were available to them from the City, if any.

These tenants, our neighbours, were forced to leave their homes in the middle of winter during a global pandemic due to the negligence of their greedy landlord. We cannot have this happen again, in the Junction Triangle, or to any tenants across the city.

We ask that you support this motion, and also advocate for an amendment that seeks further clarification on how landlords can be required to provide compensation when emergency evictions happen, and how landlords can be held accountable for instances of negligence (such as this one).

Brad Lamb has since offered compensation and settled a legal suit with these tenants. But it should be noted that if this had happened to a group of tenants that did not have access to personal savings, did not have a social media following, did not speak English, or did not know how to navigate the legal system -- there is a very real chance this story would not have made it into the media, or onto the agenda today. We need to make sure all tenants in Toronto are protected moving forward, and bad landlords are held accountable.

It is our hope that as we look to protect tenants from such landlords we also consider how to manage the privilege of developing further properties, so that bad landlords are not rewarded with more opportunities to neglect their responsibilities to residents and to the broader community.

Sincerely,

Junction Triangle Community Action Network