



June 28, 2021

Planning and Housing Committee
Toronto City Council
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
By Email: phc@toronto.ca

Re: Planning and Housing Committee Item PH25.10 – Multi-Tenant Housing

Dear Councillor Bailao and Committee Members,

I am writing to express the University of Toronto's support for staff recommendations to implement city-wide licensing, zoning, and expanded enforcement regime for multi-tenant houses.

Due to lack of other affordable housing options, students across our tri-campus community often find themselves renting accommodations in multi-tenant housing or "rooming houses." Students and others should not have to sacrifice safety or their tenant rights in order to obtain affordable housing.

In parts of the City these dwellings are currently illegal but the fact remains that many people continue to opt for these living arrangements while often being unaware of their rights. Implementing a city-wide regulatory framework and enforcement regime that protects tenants in these arrangements is critical to ensuring vulnerable people are not left to the vagaries of an unregulated housing market.

While the University continues expand on-campus student housing, current municipal planning process often work to restricted the number of dwelling units approved for construction and frustrate efforts to increase supply. Lack of federal or provincial funding to support student housing further hinders supply. Even with increased supply, off-campus housing will remain a preferred option for some students. As such, we support the efforts to ensure more effective, city-wide regulation of multi-tenant housing.

Sincerely,

Andrew Thomson
Chief of Government Relations