



January 11, 2022

To: Councillor McKelvie, Chair, Infrastructure & Environment Committee
Members, Infrastructure & Environment Committee

From: Daryl Chong, Greater Toronto Apartment Association

Re: IE27.10 Review of the City's Chute Closure Program

The Greater Toronto Apartment Association ("GTAA") represents the interests of the multi-family, purpose-built rental housing industry. Our members own and manage more than 150,000 units of multi-family, purpose-built rental housing in the GTA, mostly in the City of Toronto.

As noted in the staff report:

The Chute Closure Program (Program) was introduced in 2010 as a tool to support improved waste diversion in City serviced multi-residential buildings. In older-stock multi-residential buildings, residents typically have access to a garbage chute on every floor. In these buildings, Blue Bin recycling and Green Bin Organics Bins are typically located either outside or in a basement/garage making them less convenient to access. Closing the garbage chute in a multi-residential building has the potential to eliminate the convenience of garbage on every floor and also has the potential to encourage residents to sort and bring their divertible waste for management in Blue Bin and/or Green Bin organics thereby reducing waste sent to landfill.

To close a chute, the building owner is required to follow the City's formal application process and meet the City's eligibility criteria. Next the building owner must provide additional information for review and approval by City staff.

As a final step the building owner must conduct a poll or vote demonstrating at least 51% of the rental units support the application to close the garbage chute. These results are submitted to the City for verification.

It is nearly impossible to meet this requirement. Few are willing to voluntarily end the convenience of access to a chute on their floor.

The next step to increased diversion in many buildings is via chute closures.

Respectfully, GTAA requests that the Infrastructure and Environment Committee ask staff to further investigate Report Recommendation #3 *"Remove the need for a chute closure permit for any building and maintain safety and accessibility requirements."*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daryl Chong
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