

Attachment 2 Housing At-Risk Table Framework

Background

The [HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan](#) ("HousingTO Plan") envisions a city in which all residents have equal opportunity to develop to their full potential. It is also centred on a human rights-based approach to housing which recognizes that housing is essential to the inherent dignity and well-being of a person and to building healthy, inclusive sustainable and liveable communities.

Three key strategic priorities identified in the HousingTO Plan are to: 1) prevent homelessness and improve pathways to housing stability for residents across the city; 2) ensure well-maintained and secure homes for tenants; and 3) to maintain and increase access to affordable rents. In order to achieve these objectives, a range of housing interventions and solutions are needed.

A data-driven and evidence-informed understanding of the complex housing challenges faced by residents will be critical to ensuring that the City of Toronto can appropriately plan at a system level, and effectively respond at a program level to such challenges.

Role/Purpose

The Housing At-Risk Table (HART) will coordinate interdivisional planning and responses to mitigate the loss of affordable and mid-range rental housing and support tenants who face evictions. HART will also make recommendations to the City Manager concerning policy or program changes to address systemic and structural gaps that contribute to the loss of affordable and mid-range rental housing, and housing precarity for tenants.

HART will review "data gaps" in City processes with respect to obtaining information required for the other work of the Housing At-Risk Table. HART will propose operational changes to improve data collection, including entering into data sharing agreements with Ontario Landlord & Tenant Board (LTB), Statistics Canada and other government entities, as may be required to address "data gaps".

HART will submit proposed operational changes to improve data collection for review and assessment by the City Clerk to confirm compliance with respect to the City's obligations under MFIPPA and other Information management obligations. HART will receive the results of these reviews, adopt modifications as required, and will then make recommendations to the City Manager concerning City processes with respect to obtaining information to address data gaps.

Key activities/functions to be performed through HART include, but are not limited to:

- Supporting implementation of the proposed Renoviction Policy and future by-law

- Coordinating emergency relocations and supports for tenants who have been evicted;
- Reviewing complaints received from residents for purposes of triaging complaints within the City administration for action (including further investigation); and
- Connecting people to supports and information, including external resources, as needed.

Interdivisional Collaboration

HART will be a permanent table led by the Housing Secretariat, and supported by the following key internal partners:

- Housing Secretariat
- Municipal Licensing & Standards
- Shelter Support & Housing Administration
- Social Development, Finance & Administration
- Toronto Public Health
- Toronto Building
- Revenue Services
- Corporate Real Estate Management
- City Planning

Additional divisions may be added to from time-to-time, as approved by members of the table.

External stakeholders, including City-funded external agencies/organizations and government partners and the [Tenant Advisory Committee](#) may also be consulted on key issues from time-to-time.

Roles and Responsibilities

Each division will be required to assign a staff person (and back-up) that has decision-making authority to act in real-time to be able to prevent the loss of rental housing and to support tenants who encounter potential or actual unforeseen loss of housing.

Each division will outline for submission to HART, the financial and legislative tools (including existing programs) that they can leverage to prevent the loss of affordable and mid-range rental housing and/or to assist tenants at-risk of being evicted or those recently evicted.

Accountability

All meetings will be chaired by the staff person in the Housing Secretariat division ("Chair").

A meeting quorum will require at least two-thirds of the membership to be present.

Items for action will be tabled by the Chair. Decisions will be made by consensus to also ensure that the opinions, ideas and concerns of all members/divisions are taken into account. Consensus decision-making will also foster interdivisional collaboration, cooperation, inclusion and participation.

Meeting planning, facilitation and support will be provided by the Housing Secretariat. This includes:

- Preparing agendas and supporting material;
- Preparing meeting notes and action items; and
- Tracking outcomes

To begin, meetings will be held monthly. However, this schedule may be revised from time-to-time depending on caseload, and based on consensus.

Outcome Tracking and System-Level Improvements

The Housing Secretariat will track the outcomes of HART interventions. Outcome tracking and analysis will help inform:

- An accurate measurement of scale of evictions (both formal and illegitimate) facing tenants in Toronto
- Impacts of the Renovictions Policy and by-law, once adopted, on deterring renovictions
- System-wide policy, program or protocol improvements
- Where new or enhanced investments are needed
- Intergovernmental collaboration and advocacy efforts