

Supplementary Report to EX9.13: Relationship Framework for the Multi-Tenant House Licensing Tribunal, Rates of Remuneration, and Vice-Chair Selection Process – Tenant Advisory Committee Feedback

Date: November 7, 2023

To: City Council

From: Director, Court Services

Wards: All

SUMMARY

In considering the Relationship Framework for the Multi-Tenant House Licensing Tribunal, Rates of Remuneration, and Vice-Chair Selection Process at its meeting on October 31, 2023, Executive Committee adopted the item with amendment, and directed the City Manager and the Executive Director, Housing Secretariat, to present the proposed qualifications for members of the Multi-Tenant House Licensing Tribunal, set out in Section 6.6.1 of the draft Relationship Framework in Attachment 1 to the report (October 17, 2023) from the Director Court Services, to the Tenant Advisory Committee and report directly to City Council at its November 8, 9, and 10, 2023 meeting on any additional or modified board-specific qualifications for members of the Multi-Tenant House Licensing Tribunal.

City staff presented the draft qualifications to the Tenant Advisory Committee at its meeting on November 6, 2023. The Tenant Advisory Committee was provided with an overview of Executive Committee's direction and the purpose of the consultation. The Tenant Advisory Committee was asked to provide feedback on the list of qualifications for Council's consideration. Further, staff sought the Tenant Advisory Committee's advice on organizations that staff may consult with during the recruitment of members phase of the public appointments process. The additional and amended tribunal qualifications that emerged from this consultation are outlined in this supplementary report and its updated Relationship Framework of the City with the Multi-Tenant House Licensing Tribunal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director, Court Services recommends that:

1. City Council delete Executive Committee recommendation 1 and adopt instead the following recommendation:
 1. City Council adopt the Relationship Framework of the City with the Multi-Tenant House Licensing Tribunal as set out in Attachment 1 to the Supplementary Report (November 7, 2023) from the Director, Court Services.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The recommendations contained in this report have no financial impact to the City in 2023 or future years. The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

In considering the Relationship Framework for the Multi-Tenant House Licensing Tribunal, Rates of Remuneration, and Vice-Chair Selection Process at its meeting on October 31, 2023, Executive Committee adopted with amendments the report from the Director of Court Services, and directed the City Manager and the Executive Director, Housing Secretariat, to present the proposed qualifications for members of the Multi-Tenant House Licensing Tribunal, set out in Section 6.6.1 of the draft Relationship Framework in Attachment 1 to the report (October 17, 2023) from the Director Court Services, to the Tenant Advisory Committee and report directly to City Council at its November 8, 9, and 10, 2023 meeting on any additional or modified board-specific qualifications for members of the Multi-Tenant House Licensing Tribunal.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.EX9.13>

At its meeting on December 14, 2022, City Council adopted Item CC2.1, and in doing so established Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 575, Multi-Tenant Houses, which establishes a new Multi-Tenant House Licensing Tribunal. The link to the staff report and Council's decisions are available at:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.CC2.1>

COMMENTS

Multi-Tenant House Licensing Tribunal – Relationship Framework

A Relationship Framework is City Council's instrument for setting out the governance structures of its Boards, including Adjudicative Boards and Tribunals. It also clarifies

roles and responsibilities for tribunal members as adjudicators of matters before the tribunal and City staff as administrators of the tribunal. Finally, it outlines member and Chair qualifications and eligibility criteria that are necessary to inform the public appointments process.

The draft qualifications for members of the Multi-Tenant House Licensing Tribunal were reviewed with the Tenant Advisory Committee at its meeting on November 6, 2023, following an overview of the establishment, mandate, and operations of the Tribunal. In keeping with Executive Committee's directions, City staff noted the Committee's suggestions regarding the qualifications and have outlined them in Attachment 1 and the commentary below. Further, City staff sought the Committee's advice on organizations that staff may consult with to inform the Multi-Tenant House Licensing Tribunal public appointments process.

Consultation with the Tenant Advisory Committee

The Tenant Advisory Committee provided feedback to expand on qualifications touching on lived experience, knowledge of the Toronto housing system, and experience with Indigenous, Black, and other equity deserving groups. Their feedback is incorporated in the updated Attachment 1 – Relationship Framework to include these three additional qualifications:

Section 6.6.1 Eligibility and qualifications for membership

- (2) The board-specific qualifications for Members and the Chair of the MTHLT are:
- (p) have professional experience or have been a consumer of the Toronto rental housing sector;
 - (q) a demonstrated knowledge of the Toronto rental housing and affordable housing sectors, and City of Toronto housing priorities; and
 - (r) may have lived experience as and/or working experience with Indigenous, Black or other equity-deserving group(s) disproportionately represented in Toronto's rental housing sector.

The Tenant Advisory Committee also commented on topics beyond the qualifications for tribunal members. These topics addressed continued challenges in Toronto's housing system, the need to protect tenant rights, and ensure alignment with the Toronto Housing Charter. The Committee emphasized that a human rights approach to housing needs to be reflected in all aspects of the Multi-Tenant House regulatory framework.

Once the tribunal is established, City staff will ensure that members of the Multi-Tenant House Licensing Tribunal are trained and educated on the issues above. The purpose of this training is to promote awareness of tenant issues and Toronto Housing Charter objectives in its decision-making and adjudicative process. City staff remain committed to applying an equity lens and a human rights approach in the implementation of the new Multi-Tenant House regulatory framework.

City Council has directed staff to report annually throughout the implementation of the Multi-Tenant House regulatory framework. With the new by-law taking effect on March 31, 2024, staff will report back in 2025 on the first year of implementation. Throughout implementation, City staff will monitor the impacts on housing affordability and potential tenant displacement. Staff have been meeting with the Tenant Advisory Committee and other community groups through Right2HousingTO to both share information about implementation and for them to share their perspective and concerns. Staff will continue to engage operators, tenants, and community groups on the implementation of the framework.

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SIGNATURE

Dianne Kasias
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Attachment 1: Relationship Framework of the City with the Multi-Tenant House
Licensing Tribunal