

Background on the Development of a Framework for Priority Setting for HRAC 2024-2026

Staff Presentation to Housing Rights Advisory
Committee

May 13, 2024



HRAC Framework for Priority Setting

- There are many housing-related programs, priorities, and strategies underway, and the scale of housing need in Toronto is significant.
- Council has provided the HRAC a broad mandate to provide advice.
- A framework is needed to prioritize the focus of the HRAC and identify where it may provide the most impactful advice to Council, while meeting its Mandate.



Summary of Council-approved mandate

Provide advice to City Council:

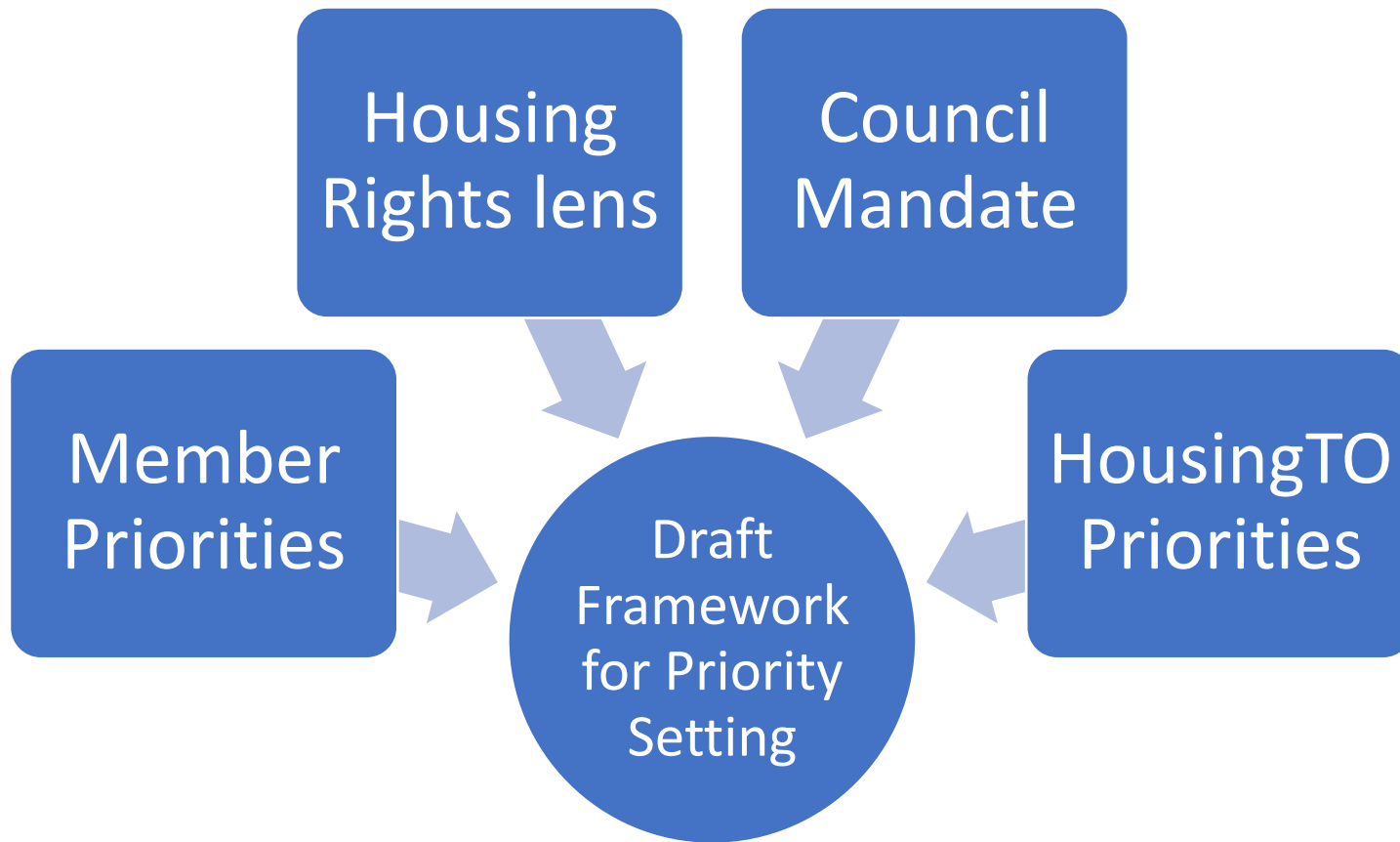
- on policies, programs and actions that the City can implement to advance its commitment to furthering the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing in Toronto
- to ensure that the interests and needs of those with living/lived experiences of housing precarity, discrimination and homelessness are reflected in City programs and service delivery;
- to support the City's engagement with Indigenous, Black and other equity-deserving communities, to identify systemic barriers and recommend actions to remove such barriers;
- on advocacy and communications with other orders of government to recommend actions which lie outside of municipal jurisdiction;
- and by independently monitoring progress of the HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan's implementation through publicly available data.

Purpose of the Framework

This framework is intended to:

- Provide a rationale for HRAC priorities, intended outcomes, foundational approaches, and opportunities to impact city programs and strategies
- Act as a guide for planning HRAC meeting agendas, to identify where action is being taken and where more is needed
- Demonstrate a public commitment regarding the HRAC priority areas for action
- Demonstrate to Council how the HRAC will meet its mandate

Framework Development Process



- Housing Secretariat staff reviewed the priorities of members, actions underway under HousingTO, the principles of a rights-based approach, and the Council mandate.
- Staff considered approaches of other Advisory Bodies, including the CABR and 2SLGBTQ advisories, in developing their priorities.
- The Chair, in consultation with staff, drafted a framework based on these findings for the Committee's consideration.

Member Priorities

Protections for
renters

Support services
and housing
stability

Equity and
accessibility

Housing access
systems

Taking a human
rights lens

Financialization of
housing

Discrimination in
the housing
system

Shelter system
access, standards,
and services

Community
infrastructure and
services

Gender-based
violence

Engagement of
diverse
communities

Housing
affordability

Accountability
and transparency

Jurisdictional
issues

How the Framework May Be Used

One purpose of the Framework is to act as a guide for planning HRAC meeting agendas, to identify where action is being taken and where more is needed. Items for the agenda may be identified and prioritized for the following reasons:

- Relevance of the item in terms of its impact on rights holders and those in greatest need and/or those most vulnerable.
- An item has been referred through City Council for consideration by the Committee with a specified timeframe.
- Timeliness with respect to upcoming reports to Council and initiatives and actions underway at the City.

There is a potential for the HRAC to inform identification of priority items for future meetings on an ongoing basis.



Ongoing Considerations

- Remain flexible to receive items referred through Council
- Alignment with and articulation of the work of the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman, Housing
- Advocacy and communication to other orders of government

Next Steps

- The Framework prepared to date is in draft form, and staff are prepared to make changes based on feedback of members
- A final version of the Framework will be brought to the Committee at its meeting in September
- The Framework may be reviewed or updated in future based on the advice of the Committee



THANK YOU