



**Federation of
South Toronto
RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATIONS**

January 11, 2024

Mr. Gord Perks, Chair
Committee Clerk and members,
Planning and Housing Committee (PHC)
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St. West
Toronto, ON M5H2N2

RE: Not Excluding Fraternities and Sororities from the Multi-tenant Housing Licencing Bylaw

Dear Councillor Perk and Members,

FoSTRA is a federation currently representing 26 residents' associations (RAs) in five downtown Toronto wards: wards 4, 9,10,11 and 13, an area encompassing hundreds of thousands of citizens.

FoSTRA is writing in support of Councillor Diane Saxe's recommendations to the PHC that the Council repeal the exemption of fraternities and sororities from the Multi-tenant House Licencing Bylaw and add to the definition of "Multi-tenant House" the clause originally proposed:

"A student fraternity or sorority house with four or more bedrooms inhabited or intended to be inhabited by students who are members of an active chapter of a bona-fide national or international student fraternity or sorority.

For the purposes of this definition of a student fraternity or sorority house, a 'bedroom' is a room that:

- a. is used or intended to be used as a bedroom, and
- b. may include a bathroom or kitchen facilities for the exclusive use of the room's occupant but does not include both."

Residents' Associations within FoSTRA's boundaries have expressed the need to bring some control over these problematic, neighbouring organizations that fall between the cracks of current legislation or oversight. Rooms are rented to outside borders as well as their own members. The University of Toronto takes absolutely no responsibility for off-campus fraternities and sororities, where almost all the houses are located. They are beyond the control of the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario. There is no control over the properties' physical state, nor the maintenance of health and safety standards beyond those for single-family homes. But they are infamous. Police and bylaw enforcement officers rarely respond to complaints unless something serious happens, as evidenced by the sheer volume of reports.

There are records of hundreds of calls to the City and police regarding loud noise, garbage, destruction of surrounding property and out-of-control parties. There is evidence of these houses having been rented out to other organizations for paid-entry parties and the serving of alcohol to minors at these and other parties. These houses have been the site of sexual and physical assaults, stabbings, fires, drug busts, and even deaths.

Including fraternities and sororities under the Multi-tenant Housing Licencing Bylaw and including them in the definition of "Multi-tenant House" as originally proposed, would be a step towards bringing some control, protecting the general public, the residents in these boarding houses, and improving the situation for their immediate neighbours.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rick" and last name "Green" clearly distinguishable.

Rick Green

Chair