



January 23, 2024

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Attention: Nancy Martins

PH9.14 - Fraternities should not be exempt from the Multi-Tenant Housing Bylaw (Ward All)

Dear Chair Councillor Gord Perks, and Members, Planning and Housing Committee.

This is to express our **strong support for Councillor Dianne Saxe's letter and her recommendations**, that:

- 1. Council direct the Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards to report to the February 2024 meeting of the Planning and Housing Committee with their advice on whether to apply the Multi-tenant House Licensing By-law to fraternity and sorority student residences.*
- 2. City Council direct the Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards to report to the the Planning and Housing Committee, as part of their report on the year-one implementation of the Multi-tenant House Licensing By-law, planned for Q2 2025, on whether it is appropriate to apply the Multi-tenant House Licensing By-law to co-operative student residences owned or leased by a non-profit, nonshare corporation and providing housing accommodation on a cooperative basis.*

Fraternity and sorority residences provide accommodation for four or more students who occupy dwelling rooms that are comparable to the dwelling rooms that will be regulated under the Multi-tenant House Licensing By-law when it comes into force in April 2024. The Multi-tenant House Licensing By-law is intended to ensure that those who pay to occupy dwelling rooms have a safe, adequate and dignified place to live, that the facility is known to comply with applicable laws, and that an owner and person in charge are clearly identified and accountable for its legal compliance. However, at present, fraternities and sororities are not required to hold a City licence in order to provide such accommodation.

In 2018 a staff report, Fraternity and Sorority Houses Exemption to Chapter 285, Rooming Houses recommended staff identify licensing requirements for fraternity and sorority housing). Following that review, staff recommended that MTH licensing requirements should apply to fraternity and sorority residences. This did not happen and Councillor Save (in whose Ward 11 almost all of the fraternities are located) is now bringing the matter forward, to revisit staff's original recommendation to protect students and their neighbours by regulating fraternity and sorority residences under the Multi-tenant House Licensing By-law.

Councillor Saxe is also bringing forward another form of student housing for consideration under the MTH Licensing bylaw - those owned or leased by a non-profit, non-share corporation that provide housing accommodation on a cooperative basis. No reason for the continued exemption of these residences has yet been provided.

We agree with Councillor Saxe that those who live in dwelling rooms in fraternities or sororities (and student co-ops) deserve the same legal protections as those who live in other dwelling rooms.

Yours truly,

Geoff Kettel
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

Cathie Macdonald
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

Cc: Mayor Olivia Chow
Councillor Dianne Saxe, Ward 11
Carleton Grant, Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards
Rita Bilerman, President, Annex Residents Assn
FoSTRA

The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA) is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of over 30 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 250,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.