



April 4, 2024

Via E-Mail: phc@toronto.ca

Planning and Housing Committee
Toronto City Hall

Attention: Nancy Martins, Committee Administrator
Members of Planning and Housing Committee

**Re: Item PH11.9 - Short-Term Rental By-law Implementation Update
Planning and Housing Committee Meeting – April 5, 2024**

Dear Members of the City Planning and Housing Committee,

On behalf of George Brown College, and in support of the correspondence submitted by S. Leisk, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP dated April 4, 2024, I am writing to urgently request that the Planning and Housing Committee support the following amendment to Chapter 547 of the Municipal Code, Licensing and Registration of Short-Term Rentals (the “Licensing By-law”) and express to City Council our support to adopt this amendment to explicitly exempt premises owned or operated by post-secondary institutions from the definition in the code of “Short-Term Rental”. We offer the following language for your consideration:

“SHORT-TERM RENTAL – All or part of a dwelling unit used to provide sleeping accommodations for any rental period that is less than 28 consecutive days in exchange for payment, and includes bed and breakfasts but does not include premises owned or operated by a post-secondary school, hotels or motels.”

As you may know, post-secondary institutions typically rent out rooms in their student residences in the summer to students, school groups, and others, to support their educational needs, and as a key source of revenue between semesters, and to increase the availability of room rentals for community members.

At George Brown College, our student residence is called The George. Located at 80 Cooperage Street in Ward 13 – Toronto Centre, The George has approximately 500 beds. The revenue generated from summer bookings in 2023 amounts to a significant amount that supports student focused programming, capital improvements, and operational expenses for George Brown.

Throughout the summer months, The George hosts visiting school groups, travelling sports teams, and in many cases prospective students and their families. Not only does The George provide alternative accommodation options for these groups, but it also helps promote George Brown College and keeps our community active and vibrant, which supports existing retail and other community services operating year-round.

Ensuring that The George remains listed on sites such as Booking.com is imperative, as 2024 reservations account for 67% of reservations. The George remains committed to supporting students pursuing studies during the summer term and allocates over 50% of our available suites to George Brown students. Having consistency in room bookings is important for our students who rely on the College to provide safe, affordable, and welcoming spaces.

We are counting on your support for our request for this critical amendment to the Licensing By-law.

Thank you again for your government's continued support of post-secondary education excellence, and for your ongoing partnership with George Brown College.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Fearon", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Gervan Fearon
President
George Brown College

c: Chris Moise, City Councillor, Ward 13 – Toronto Centre
Laura Jamer, Director, Government Relations, George Brown College