

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to urge you to support the Mayor's amendment which directs staff to bring forward a Maximum Temperature By-Law for rental units by July 2026 that includes mechanisms to prevent above guideline rent increases being passed on to tenants. I support and commend the Mayor's amendment including the recommendation for a compliance analysis study.

This amendment recognizes the urgency for action and the need to protect the most vulnerable. I am concerned that a draft bylaw has not been put forward despite Council directing staff to do so a year ago.

As a physician concerned for patients' health and well-being, I am all too aware that extreme heat is the leading cause of weather-related deaths. The 2021 BC heat dome caused a staggering 619 deaths. People died in their homes, and those most vulnerable tended to be the elderly and of low-income. We must take steps urgently to prevent similar scenarios from occurring again as we face planetary warming which will predictably increase the number of extreme heat days we are all exposed to every year. I support and urge the prompt development of a 26 degree Celcius maximum indoor temperature standard.

Extreme heat can also exacerbate underlying illnesses including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, asthma and mental health conditions. The number of days exceeding temperatures of 32 degrees Celcius in Toronto in 2025 was double the number of days compared to 2024. In Toronto, tenants in low-income and racialized communities, seniors, and young children are the most vulnerable to the escalating risks of heat.

With the number of days of extreme heat projects to rise as a result of fossil fuel-driven climate change, it is imperative that the City acts with the urgency this crisis demands, as delays will cost people their health and even their lives. Please support the Mayor's amendment and implement a maximum heat bylaw without further delay.

Sincerely,

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