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**Robicheau, Vanessa**

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**To:** Gallagher, Mary;

**Cc:** Morelli, Bernie

**Subject:** RE: "Rental Licensing Model" Report # PED10049

I am writing to you with regards to the meeting tomorrow, the "Rental Licensing Model" Report # PED10049. Unfortunately I will be unable to attend, due to prior business commitments in Toronto. But I feel this issue is *so* important that I was hoping to have my voice heard somehow.

Anyone living in Hamilton, has seen the effect of the unregulated, illegal housing situation, be it lodgings, triplexs etc. It is a free for all for many people to make money, to essentially run a business. There are landlords who care about their tenants, who care about their properties and who care about their neighbourhoods. But, in many parts of Hamilton... this is not the case.

If you are renting apartments, and making money are you not running a business? If so, what businesses do not need to be licensed? Even a dog groomer needs a license. These landlords have no incentive to take care of their properties or the people who's money they take every month. You would imagine a conscience would come into play at some point. But for most, that is not the case unless they receive a visit from by-law and even then most fight it all the way. I know, I have worked very closely with By-law and they have their hands full.

Peoples lives are in the hands on these 'businessmen' and sadly as we keep reading, people are living in horrible conditions, conditions that no human being should live. A house not far from us in Ward 3 had no faucets, tenants were getting their water from a pipe sticking out of the wall, unbelievable. If this licensing proposal goes through the city can gain access to see these living conditions and hopefully get the co-operation of the landlord. I know this is not a black and white issue, polarizing to say the least.

There are some groups who make a lot of money from this situation and are in opposition. They are not thinking of living conditions for tenants, neighborhood betterment, they don't live here. They sell homes, then.....they go home.

The bottom line is everyone deserves to live with dignity, and we need to be proud of our neighbourhoods, not make excuses for them. It's time that these landlords (most do not live in the city) are accountable for their actions.

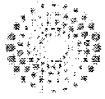
Hamilton is a fabulous city with so much potential for everyone, why should a few bring down not only the reputation of this city, but allow those who live here, and our neighbourhoods to continually suffer.

Truly,

Amanda

Thank you for your time.

.....  
**Amanda Herman**  
Client Specialist (Direct) Manager, Toronto



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