

TENANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Presentation to The Emergency and Community Services Committee

December 10, 2012

John Hawker

Chair, Tenant Advisory Committee



Tenant Advisory Committee 2012 Milestones Presentation

Mandate

To provide council with information, advice, recommendations and advocacy regarding residential tenancy issues and policies that would improve the overall well-being of tenants in Hamilton.

Tenant Advisory Committee

2012 Milestones Presentation

Objectives

- To identify systemic and policy issues facing tenants and provide advice and recommendations to the City
- To advocate for policy issues affecting tenants that require further action with the municipal, provincial and federal governments
- To develop strategies for information dissemination and education to tenants regarding tenant issues

Tenant Advisory Committee 2012 Milestones Presentation

Membership

TAC currently has six members:

John Hawker – Chair

Andy Cranbury

Larry Husack

Marie Frances Raftis

Connie Bellamy

Laura Ryan

Don Britton

TAC was sad to see Meaghan Ross move on but has welcomed their new members

Tenant Advisory Committee 2012 Milestones Presentation

2012 Work Plan

- TAC continued to work on their five areas of interest in 2012 (in order of priority)
 - Renter Voter Turnout
 - Tenants Access to City Hall
 - Landlord Registry Pilot
 - Rooming Houses
 - Monitoring the Official Plan Rental Housing Targets

Tenant Advisory Committee

2012 Milestones Presentation

Renters as Voters

- Continue to work with Tony Fallis to determine current practices and feasibility of pilot project
- Moving forward with a proposal for a pilot project in the future to identify apartment buildings with more than 100 units that may benefit from an in-house polling station, as per the Ontario Election Act (Polling Places)

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Tenant Access to City Hall

- Continue to find ways for City Hall and tenants in the general public to interact on issues that matter to them
- Working with Marilyn Pankhurst to understand the City's website as a tool for tenants

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2012 Milestones Presentation

Monitoring the Official Plan Targets

- TAC continues to be concerned about the lack of affordable rental housing being built in Hamilton (not reaching the annual target of 629 new rental units as identified in the Official Plan)
- TAC recognizes that it will require creativity and investment from senior levels of government to reach our targets
- In February, 2012 at TAC's urging, the Mayor sent a correspondence to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the inadequate Investment in Affordable Housing allocation – we are still waiting for a response from MMAH

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- The Tenant Advisory Committee was consulted for the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan and raised the need for more affordable housing through that venue as well



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Rooming Houses and Landlord Registry

- A critical concern for TAC is the poor quality of some rooming houses and how that quality affects tenants.
- We have been kept apprised of the City's work on Rooming Houses and the Landlord Registry by Parking and By-Law Services and were consulted for the September 2012 report

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Other Activities

- Continue to explore alternative models of affordable housing – laneway and pocket housing for example
- Continue to remain connected to community events – helped financially support the Tenant Conference and National Housing Day
- Continue to learn about housing issues – attended Code Red Follow Up Event in late 2011, National Housing Day events in late 2011, Housing and Homelessness Action Plan Check In event in early 2012 and Ontario Non Profit Housing Association annual conference in late 2012

TENANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THANK YOU!

