

TENANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Presentation to The Emergency and Community Services Committee

September 8, 2014

Connie Bellamy, Chair



Tenant Advisory Committee 2014 Milestones Presentation

Mandate

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

Tenant Advisory Committee 2014 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 2014 Milestones Presentation

Membership

Connie Bellamy – Chair

John Hawker

Larry Husack

Andy Cranbury

Marie Frances Raftis

Don Britton

Laura Ryan

Tenant Advisory Committee 2014 Milestones Presentation

2014 Focus Areas

- Tenant Voter Turnout
- Tenant Access to City Hall
- Rental Housing Licensing
- Tenant Education and Rights
- Condo Conversions

Tenant Advisory Committee 2014 Milestones Presentation

Tenant Voter Turnout

- Connecting and networking with agencies including:
 - Aboriginal Advisory Committee – Common interest to increase voter turnout; exercise rights of citizenship
 - Hamilton Legal Clinic – explore potential common initiatives
 - Hamilton Civic League – input from citizens on election issues
 - Social Planning and Research Council – expanding voter sites; work with Neighbourhood Planning Team

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Tenant Voter Turnout

- TAC reported to Emergency and Community Services on voter turnout and continues to advocate for this issue.
- TAC advocated for a pilot project voting station in multi-residential buildings
- Status: Complete

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Tenant Access to City Hall

- Presentation from Call Center Representative - provided feedback.
- Monitor the redevelopment of the City website - provided input.
- Status: Complete

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■ Proactive Enforcement/Rental Housing Licensing

TAC was involved in community discussions in 2013 and intend to be involved in any community discussions in 2014 and beyond.

Status: In progress

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Tenant Education and Rights

- Presentation by Matt Bowen on the Tenant Engagement Strategies, City Housing Hamilton - Complete
- TAC sponsorship support for the Riverdale tenant conference on October 6th, 2014 - Complete
- Established a relationship with Hamilton District Apartment Association to share information relating to landlord and tenant responsibilities. - Complete
- Presentation from Hamilton District Apartment Association encouraged TAC to support changes to the Multi – Residential Tax Rate. – In progress

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Condo Conversions

TAC provided direct input to the development of the protocol for condo conversions regarding the 75% tenant approval rule (to ensure full and free consent of tenants)

Status: Complete

Tenant Advisory Committee

2014 Milestones Presentation

2014 Other Activities

Members have attended conferences and workshops to increase knowledge base including:

- Ontario Non Profit Association Conference
- Residential Tenancies Act and Human Rights
- Crime Prevention in Your Neighbourhood
- McMaster Poverty Initiative
- Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council
- Endorsed the City's Eviction Prevention practices with social housing providers

Tenant Advisory Committee

2014 Milestones Presentation

2014 Other Activities

- Participated in Workshop on the Housing First Model
- Participated in and supported the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan launch at the Freeway Café.
- John Hawker represents the TAC Committee on the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan Planning Group.
- Start 2015 work plan and identify focus areas

TENANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THANK YOU!

