



October 28, 2019

City of Hamilton Planning Committee
C/O Lisa Chamberlain, Legislative Coordinator
City Hall - 71 Main St W
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for your continued support of McMaster University's efforts to provide an adequate supply of safe and affordable student housing.

Although our Main Street and downtown graduate student residences will improve supply and respond to requests from the community to build more university-operated residence space, we recognize that the conversation on student housing cannot be limited to university residences alone.

As you know, many of our students choose to rent off-campus housing from private landlords primarily in the Ainslie Wood and Westdale communities. Although most landlords are responsible and reasonable, there are nevertheless some instances where our students justifiably view certain rental properties as neither safe nor affordable. Dealing with the issues of landlord absenteeism and ensuring safety for students is critically important, as you'll appreciate.

For this reason, McMaster University is pleased to join the McMaster Students Union in support of the proposed rental licensing pilot.

We appreciate that the specifics of this pilot have not yet been fully determined, but we are supportive of pilot studies aimed at helping ensure an adequate supply of safe and affordable student housing. We look forward to reviewing the results of this pilot project to see if it meets these objectives while not further increasing rental costs for our students.

Thank you again for your support in helping to provide safe and affordable student housing in Hamilton.

Sincerely,

David Farrar
Acting President & Vice-Chancellor
McMaster University

cc: Councillor Maureen Wilson, Ward I