

CITY OF HAMILTON

NOTICE OF MOTION

Council: August 21, 2020

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR T. WHITEHEAD.....

Request for the Immediate Reinstatement of the Suspension of Evictions

WHEREAS, there are 6231 households on the Access to Housing Social Housing Waitlist;

WHEREAS, rental housing continues to be under pressure from condominium conversion and reduced new construction;

WHEREAS, the local need for affordable rental housing has grown at a faster pace than supply;

WHEREAS, access to safe, affordable and stable housing is a social determinant of health;

WHEREAS, Bill 184, Protecting Tenants and Strengthening Community Housing Act, 2020, was introduced in order to protect vulnerable residents from facing housing instability as a result of the pandemic;

WHEREAS, the end to the eviction freeze may have significant impacts on those individuals most affected from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, rental housing is an essential form of housing stock that meets the needs of diverse Hamiltonians;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That Council request the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to immediately reinstate the suspension of evictions to ensure those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic remain in stable housing; and
- (b) That Council request the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing provide the following, should the suspension of evictions remain lifted:

- (i) provide open data on eviction applications heard before the Landlord and Tenant Board, including the type of notice provided by landlords to tenants, the type of application made by landlords to the Landlord and Tenant Board, the size of the household before the Landlord and Tenant Board and the outcome of the application, including the content of any orders (i.e., evicted, not evicted, ordered to repay arrears, etc.);
- (ii) identify tenants in need of housing support services through the eviction process and provide these services for every household that is evicted through the Landlord and Tenant Board, with a goal of timely re-housing;
- (iii) provide and fund emergency shelter spaces and related supports in municipalities for households evicted through the Landlord and Tenant Board at no cost to the municipality until proper housing can be provided for those households; and,
- (iv) invest in the development of affordable rental housing and housing benefits in municipalities, commensurate with population and core housing need, and prioritize access for renters who have been evicted and for those who are paying more than 30 percent of income on rent and may be at risk of being evicted.

