

Bates, Tamara

Subject: FW: Support ACORN's Defending Our Homes campaign!

From: Katie Sullivan < >

Sent: September 24, 2020 1:58 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Support ACORN's Defending Our Homes campaign!

Dear City Clerk,

I have been renting for the majority of my life here and Toronto, and plan to rent for the rest of my life due to escalating housing costs. It's inhumane to let apartments go into disrepair to get tenants out, I currently live with a tenant on ODSP and they are treated so different than even I am - their daughter and her husband are also living below poverty line and are blamed constantly for their place not being organized, though they never are given any updates on any repairs they ask for. This story is sadly so common and the norm. Landlords should not be able to evict/force out tenants to be able to renovate and then charge more. Property should not be a business - not when HUMAN lives are at stake.

I'm writing to ask for your support for ACORN Hamilton's Defending Our Homes campaign that calls on the Mayor and Council to pass a new housing policy that would save affordable housing in the city.

As you know the housing crisis in Hamilton has gone from bad to worse, mainly due to factors outside of the control of local government. Loose provincial rent control laws have led to skyrocketing rents for Hamilton tenants, combined with poor policy development and inadequate funding for affordable housing from higher levels of government, the city is in a difficult position when it comes to housing.

Low and moderate income tenants face the highest risk of displacement. As ACORN so aptly points out in their new report (<https://acorncanada.org/resource/hamilton-defending-our-homes>), there are landlords in Hamilton that are neglecting basic repairs, building maintenance and pest prevention and developers are buying up Hamilton's affordable rental stock with the plan of pushing out the existing tenants to maximize profit.

Hamilton ACORN is asking for the City of Hamilton to develop a policy that puts the health and housing security of tenants ahead of the profit of developers.

ACORN is calling for:

- Renoviction Bylaw to disincentivize tenant displacement similar to the Renoviction Bylaw passed in New Westminster, BC
- Landlord Licensing to ensure landlords keep their properties in good repair

We know your office cares deeply about these issues. Please support this call to action.

Sincerely,
Katie Sullivan

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