

Greetings,

My name is Casandra and I am a member of Hamilton ACORN's Mountain Chapter. We are part of the Just Recovery Coalition in Hamilton.

In recent years Hamilton has seen a huge spike in the price of rental units. Personally, I was lucky enough to rent an apartment just before rents started to spike, since then rents have doubled. My income has not doubled and the state of the buildings I am living in get worse and worse. If things get worse, I would just move but there is no way I can afford double the rent so I am now left stuck in a bad situation. I am not the only one in this situation or worse, clearly something needs to be done about this. I and so many others are in bad situations due to the lack of oversight for landlords. Hamilton needs to step up and pass mandatory measures to keep apartments and complexes safe and affordable.

Due to COVID19 we are seeing more and more people out on the streets and it will only get worse if there is no intervention. It looks like COVID will be a long-term presence in our lives and from what I have seen and heard it is not being taken as seriously as it should be. In my building and many others regular cleaning is not being done. I could not tell you the last time someone came through. I have seen the same dirt and garbage in the hallways for weeks, even though recommendations are to clean twice a day. Public Health recommendations for apartment buildings need to be made mandatory in Hamilton. At the end of the day I feel it is clear that bad landlords (and there are many) are not willing to anything that isn't enforced.

In conclusion I feel slumlords have been unregulated for way too long and are knowingly putting their tenants at risk. It is time to license and regulate all landlords for the health and safety of Hamilton tenants.

Thank you for your time,

Casandra Thiessen