



Thank you councillors for accepting my written submission.

My name is Melanie Attwood and I am a member of Hamilton ACORN's downtown chapter. I am writing to you in support of the city taking action on renoviction.

I have lived in downtown Hamilton for the past 5 years. I pay \$750 a month in rent, that's 35% of my income. I had to cut my hours as a nurse from fulltime to part time due to health issues. I am struggling to pay rent during the pandemic as a single mom. I may have to give up my nursing career and look into disability in the future, at which point my rent could go from 35% of my income to over 50% of my income.

I never thought I would have to worry about renoviction or worry about finding another place until now. The sad reality is, that I cannot afford to move when these predatory landlords are pushing out tenants and doubling rents.

I am experiencing the tactics used by many slumlords in downtown Hamilton, such as withholding repairs and pest treatments. My landlord is too busy making cosmetic changes to the exterior and updated their condo suits, meanwhile units where low to moderate income tenants live are being neglected. These units are falling into disrepair. Some are serious health and safety issues. I've included some photos of damage in my apartment. I have put in repair requests to address water damage and broken cabinets, but repairs are being withheld.





If they continue to be neglected the landlord could use this as an excuse to evict tenants for renovations. Many tenants will get tired of dealing with substandard housing and move, leaving a vacant unit where the rent be doubled.

This is the goal of many landlords in Hamilton right now. Our homes are being treated as investment opportunities and the lack of action is contributing to the homeless crisis! We need the city council to take action to protect tenants and affordable housing in Hamilton!

Thank you for accepting my delegation.