

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Absentee Landlord Student Rentals in Neighbourhoods

From: Jim Folkes

Sent: Monday, August 9, 2021 7:04 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Cc: Kelsey, Lisa <Lisa.Kelsey@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Absentee Landlord Student Rentals in Neighbourhoods

Dear Hamilton Council,

Please include this correspondence for the Planning Committee Agenda for Item 10.2 "License Rental Housing (PED21097/LS21022) (Wards 1 8, and parts of Ward 14)" for August 10th:

The issue of Absentee-Landlord Student Rentals is of extremely serious concern to me and my family who live behind Mohawk College in the Buchanan Park neighbourhood in Ward 8. We have lived here for 22 years now, and are still waiting for these run-down and overcrowded student house hazards to be regulated! With all the families with young children living here due to the close proximity of the elementary school, you'd think that this would be in place already. Families with children deserve more consideration to keep their children safe.

At the student rental properties in my neighbourhood there have been many problems. The more dangerous ones involve fires, gas leaks, floods and other health hazards that affect the safety of the rental residents and especially their surrounding neighbours. After a fire occurred at a crowded student rental on Delmar Drive (my street at the time), and friends of mine were afraid that their house was going to catch fire as well, I learned that the City was not allowed inside rental properties to check for basic health and safety violations. I could not believe this! What if a student rental started up next to me and set my home on fire? Does no one care about my family being harmed? We finally have a couple of Councillors who care about this serious issue and want to make life easier and safer for working families so PLEASE SUPPORT THEM Council! We need and deserve this after waiting so long.

My heart goes out to every mother and father who has had to deal with inconsiderate student neighbours. This kind of renting should never have been allowed in Hamilton in the first place -- Waterloo has had a five unrelated person limit on rentals since 1990 -- why are surrounding cities always way ahead of us on these easy to implement laws that would bring peace of mind to so many tax-paying families? Hamilton should have regulated these rentals decades ago. The time to regulate them is TODAY!! DO NOT DELAY AGAIN PLEASE! Have some heart, have some sympathy.

You would not put up with a student rental beside your home -- we all know this is true. HELP US PLEASE and support our good Councillor Danko today!

Sincerely and with great urgency,
Jim Folkes