

Pilon, Janet

Subject: The situation at 1083 Main Street East**From:** d.galvin**Sent:** February 21, 2023 10:25 AM**To:** clerk@hamilton.ca**Cc:** Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Nrinder Nann <ward3@hamilton.ca>; Weinberger, Alexandra <Alexandra.Weinberger@hamilton.ca>; Olivia O'Connor <hamilton@acorncanada.org>;**Subject:** Re.: The situation at 1083 Main Street East

Hi,

Please accept the following delegation for the City Council meeting on Wednesday February 22.

David Galvin

Hello to Mayor Horwath and City Councillors and thank you for receiving my delegation.

I'm David Galvin, a tenant at 1083 Main Street East, a historic low-rise apartment building near the Delta. You may have seen me on the front page of the Hamilton Spectator. I appeared there twice and on CH News three times.

I would gladly trade my minutes of modest fame for running water in my apartment. I and my neighbours in the 6 other occupied units at 1083 have been without this basic human right for 57 days as of today (Wednesday). And there's no time frame for when, if ever, water will return.

Agents for landlord 1083 Main Street Inc., (president: Dylan Suitor), Grow Ontario Property Management and/or paralegal firm Caveat LLP shut off water in the building on December 28, 2022. Earlier that day pipes had burst as a result of unpermitted renovations and failure of the landlord in spite of multiple warnings to protect plumbing infrastructure from freezing. Bylaw enforcement officers have proved ineffective at getting the water back on.

I and my neighbors at 1083 are sick, elderly and/or disabled. I've lived in the building since 2004; most remaining tenants are similarly longstanding. We're low-income and can't afford market rent anywhere else. We have nowhere to go.

I've suffered serious emotional and physical trauma from the lack of water. I know that at least some of my neighbors are as stressed as I am. Our health is at risk because we can't properly wash our hands or our dishes, or routinely flush our toilets. Perhaps the worst thing is the loss of the hope we initially had that our situation would be quickly remedied.

Tenants at 1083 have seen one slumlord after another buy the building, do little or nothing to improve it, then flip it for a huge profit. All the while, building inspectors have been unable or unwilling to ensure that much-needed repairs are undertaken.

The ongoing crisis at 1083 demonstrates clearly that tough new laws are necessary to curb the excesses of scofflaw landlords. But laws are not enough. Building inspectors and bylaw officers must be incentivized to take their mandates seriously and act with enthusiasm and vigor when vulnerable tenants are put at risk.

I wish to thank Olivia O'Conner of ACORN for her tireless efforts to assist the beleaguered tenants of 1083 Main Street East. I also wish to thank the city's water department, which has stepped up where the landlord would not and is making regular deliveries of containerized water. And of course I wish to thank the offices of Mayor Horwath and Councillor Nrinder Nann for their ongoing efforts to see this horrendous situation made right.

Thank you for considering my delegation.
David Galvin