

I would like to start by first saying hello to my Ward Councillor, Jason Farr.

Secondly, I would like to state that I'm in favour of licensing landlords to better protect tenants.

I am nervous writing this letter as I'm speaking out against my current landlord. My landlord has applied to have me evicted over false accusations and on Wednesday August 11<sup>th</sup>, I will learn the outcome.

A few years ago, I spoke out against a maintenance worker living in the utility room of my building and have faced harassment ever since.

For a few years now, I have been experiencing ongoing anxiety and stress and even nightmares due to both the harassment and the many safety concerns. I stay because I pay below the current average, and therefore I'm also in support of rent caps.

The most recent incident is when the maintenance worker who I spoke out against years ago, had used a blow torch on the floors in the unit below us. The building fire alarm went off and my unit was full of smoke. The maintenance worker turned off the fire alarm and disconnected the battery backup and proceeded to use the blow torch on the floor. I called the fire department. After the fire department left, the maintenance worker proceeded to use polyurethane sealant on the floor. Many of us evacuated the building due to the strong odour that quickly spread throughout the building. I called the fire department again and after arriving, they knocked on doors to advise tenants to quickly ventilate and they aired out the building using industrial fans. They also told my landlord that he needs to get down to the building immediately. This was at 10pm on a workday.

I've attached the two fire incident reports.

If the maintenance worker had started a fire in using the blow torch, the fire alarms wouldn't have sounded because he turned them off. He put all of us at risk that night.

One tenant had told me that she felt like she was going to pass out from the polyurethane sealant. Two tenants had told me they experienced headaches as a result.

I urge you to proceed with the pilot project to license rental housing in Wards 1 and 8.

I also urge you to adopt a city-wide program. We need and deserve to be better protected.

Thank you to both Councillor Maureen Wilson and Councillor John Danko.

Thanks for listening,

Sara Shwadchuck

Tenant and ACORN Member