

January 17th 2024

Hello City Council and Staff,

My name is Norman Cooper and I am an ACORN member.

I am delegating to urge City Council to vote for strong anti-renoviction bylaws. I appreciate the efforts of city staff and Council to move forward on this bylaw, and look forward to seeing landlords held accountable in some way.

For tenants like myself who have lived in their homes for more than a decade, or multiple decades, we all expect that so long as rent is paid, we're safe to assume that the landlord can't legally kick us out. Getting a notice of eviction for renovations (N13) at the end of November completely shattered this illusion of safety. The planned renovations in the form make no sense for requiring vacancy, the timeline for vacancy is way too long, and yet the only reason my neighbours who got identical N13s in the spring aren't fighting tooth and nail in court to keep their homes is due to the fact that our landlord never went ahead with filing for eviction. We have been utterly failed by the province, and Queen's Park has demonstrated repeatedly that they do not wish to fix their error. Tenants need new protections to fight back against corporate landlords who don't care how many tenant laws they break. If not for ACORN reaching out to find the tenants who were targeted in my building, I may well have simply accepted the incredibly low buyout offer and attempted to find a place to rent elsewhere at likely triple my current rent.

The proposed Renovation and Relocation Bylaw goes miles beyond anything the province has done to protect tenants, and restores some of my confidence in the government's ability to act in the best interest of someone besides corporations.

Thank you for reading my delegation.