

Good day city council and city staff. Thank you for hearing me. My name is Erin and I am a member of Acorn's Hamilton chapter. Due to my work schedule, I could not be there today, but I am there in spirit with everyone else who is in the same situation as me and my neighbours.

I was here last year in April, and spoke before you to talk about the renovation in my building at that time we had a full house, now there are only five remaining and we are still fighting it. When I spoke here last year, I was scared, nervous, fearing for my future and that hasn't changed, it's gotten much worse actually. But now I'm also angry, because I don't see the situation getting any better. I see any change, I see nothing protecting us from being on the streets in only a few months time. There is nothing protecting anyone of us speaking here nothing. I'm under a doctors care for the ongoing stress and pressure I'm under. there is any place for me, nor can I afford market value rent. I'm on the list for access to housing, I filled out a homeless priority status form. something I never in my life imagined, I would have to do even that doesn't guarantee me a roof over my head when it's my time to leave this place. Have you seen the waiting list? Have you seen the people on the streets without a home or a roof over their heads? That will be me. I am just months away from possibly losing everything. I risk losing my job, because I work from home and if I don't have a home to work from I won't have a job. I risk losing the only source of comfort I have in my life, which is my animals. my cats. I risk losing my life if I'm turned out onto the streets, I am a 54-year-old woman, I am single, I am alone and I will not survive a life living in a tent. There are no couches for me to surf, I have no family to take me in. But there is the maid program, which will take away all of my fears and uncertainty and will guarantee that I won't end up on the streets, fighting to survive, and stay sane. This is how hopeless I feel. Because I won't survive on the streets This is what this is doing to my mental health. I feel like I'm standing over a hole in the ground, and I don't know if I'm going to jump in headfirst or if someone is going to push me. I am begging for change, I am begging for protection for all of us from predatory landlords.

This building came with tenants already living in it; some of us have been here over 10 years. The owner chose to buy this building, he chose to take on this property and look after it and make sure all of us have a clean safe place to live. That's the responsibility of a landlord. Instead here we are living in a building that hasn't seen a vacuum in 18 months or any upkeep. People come, they take pictures, talk about the upcoming renovations and they see the neglect. They see the pipe in the basement laundry room wrapped with a garbage bag and they ignore it. They see the back room with mold on the walls and do nothing. And they ignore the tenants who live under these conditions. My neighbour on the third floor had his kitchen ceiling open up on boxing day, water came pouring in. two days later he was in the hospital with a lung infection. he is also fighting lung cancer. You know when they finally came out to fix his roof? Last week. that should've been a top priority . We're living with the uncertainty and fear over whether or not we'll have a roof over our heads 5 months down the road. Maybe it's just me, but it's cruel and inhumane. I'm still in shock that this is even allowed. The idea that someone can knowingly and willingly displace a human being all because they're not paying market value rent, and that you're not even welcome back to the unit you lived in for years following the renovations. If I was there right now you would hear the anger and frustration in my voice. we need protection, we need someone to hear us and take action and protect us. I wish it was as easy as waving a magic wand and making all of this go away. But it's going to take a lot more than that. I do not want to become a statistic, just like everyone else fighting these renovations. None of us want to join the ranks of homeless on the street.

Thank you.