

January 17th - General Issues Committee

Hello City Council and Staff,

My name is Tracey Romanoski and I am an ACORN member. I am delegating today in support of the city moving forward with implementing a strong anti-renoviction bylaw. I appreciate the efforts of city staff at moving quickly on this important issue across 2023, and hope to see the needed funding for an early 2025 launch added to the 2024 budget.

The only one who doesn't lose when landlords are free to kick out tenants using whatever process they want are landlords.

The impact renoviction has had on my personal life is something I've talked about in previous delegations, radio interviews, and press conferences - it's something that could have been much worse if me and my neighbours hadn't come together to organize against our landlord. Tenancy laws from the province didn't save our homes. Our own effort, organizing, and access to the Tenant Defense Fund saved our homes. It demanded hours of our lives, it demanded our mental health, and it demanded the feeling of security in our own homes. We won in the end, but we'll never know how many tenants got that N13 form and buyout letter in April 2023 and left thinking they had no other option.

Family Properties and other corporate landlords shouldn't get to act in secret when they want to kick out tenants. They shouldn't benefit from the province letting them get away without even getting permits for supposed "renovations" before kicking out tenants from their affordable homes. In these situations, sunlight is the best disinfectant, and the proposed licensing process will bring these landlords' tactics out where they can't get away with it. An anti-renoviction bylaw gives tenants organizing against renoviction the tools to not only have an easier time of having their rights enforced, but also force these corporate landlords' money-grabbing schemes out into the open where municipal authorities can see them.

With similar bylaws being considered in London, Ottawa, Grimsby, and other cities, everyone's watching Hamilton to lead the way. We have the opportunity to do something truly great for tenant protections in Ontario.

Thank you for reading my delegation.