



ACORN Hamilton - Written Communication for February 7th 2025
General Issues Committee (Budget)

- **9.3 Re-Alignment of Taxpayer Funding to Good Faith Encampment Support Organizations and 9.4 Taxpayer Funding Exclusion for Organizations Involved in Litigation Against the City of Hamilton**

ACORN Hamilton strongly opposes these motions as it would jeopardize the City of Hamilton Tenant Support Program. As a partner of the TSP, our organization has seen first hand what the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic brings to the program.

The Tenant Support Program has been a critical city initiative to support low income tenants understand their rights, prevent no fault evictions and dispute Above Guideline Increases.

In August 2023, this term of Council unanimously supported changes to the Tenant Defence Fund. This included the major change from tenants having to find their own private paralegals to now the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic responsible for advice and representation.

We believe the clinic is the best-positioned organization in the city to provide professional and high quality representation to the low and moderate income tenants in the program.

It would be an enormous loss if the clinic was not a partner in the program and hurt tenants city wide in their ability to dispute no fault evictions and AGIs.

We urge the Mayor and Councillors to oppose these two motions.

- **9.6 Climate Change Initiative**

Extreme heat indoors can have very serious health consequences for people who can't cool down because of excessive heat in their apartments. After the 2021 heat dome in British Columbia caused the deaths of 619 people, the Chief Coroner of British Columbia highlighted that the primary cause of death was exposure to extreme heat indoors of over 26 degrees Celsius throughout the heat event.

The impacts of climate change are disproportionately impacting certain populations in Hamilton. Extreme heat is a particular risk for seniors, children and infants, individuals with chronic illnesses, and those with mobility challenges. Tenants who rent are also more vulnerable to extreme heat events as an inability to control the temperature within their own units can create dangerously hot environments that can severely impact their day to day, as well as their lives.

Hamilton has declared a climate emergency and voted unanimously to support the development of a maximum heat bylaw.

We urge the Mayor and Councillors to oppose the proposed elimination of the “\$150,000 for Feasibility Case Study for Air Conditioning in Hamilton Rental Housing;”

Closing

All three of these proposed budget amendments, if passed, would have devastating consequences for Hamilton’s low and moderate income tenant communities.

This term of Council has been a leader in tenant protections. We urge Council to not approve these motions and undue the progress made this term in tackling the housing and climate crisis.

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