

TENANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Presentation to The Emergency and Community Services Committee

October 19, 2011

By John Hawker

Chair, Tenant Advisory Committee



Tenant Advisory Committee Introduction

Mandate

To provide council with information, advice, recommendations and advocacy regarding residential tenancy issues and policies that would improve the overall well-being of tenants in Hamilton.

Tenant Advisory Committee Introduction

Objectives

- To identify systemic and policy issues facing tenants and provide advice and recommendations to the City
- To advocate for policy issues affecting tenants that require further action with the municipal, provincial and federal governments
- To develop strategies for information dissemination and education to tenants regarding tenant issues

Tenant Advisory Committee Introduction

Membership

TAC currently has six members:

- John Hawker – Chair
- Andy Cranbury
- Connie Bellamy
- Meghan Ross
- Laura Ryan
- Larry Husack

TAC recognizes that tenants are a diverse group and will continue to strive to build a more diverse membership. We are excited to have been recently joined by two new members with different perspectives.

Tenant Advisory Committee

2011 Work Plan

2011 Work Plan

- TAC identified five areas of interest for 2011
- TAC also identified potential partners to work with (in brackets)
 - Renter Voter Turnout (with the Hamilton Civic League)
 - Monitoring the Official Plan Rental Housing Targets (with the Affordable Housing Flagship)
 - Tenants Access to City Hall (with Customer Service at City of Hamilton)
 - Rooming Houses (with the Housing Help Centre)
 - Landlord Registry Pilot (update from City of Hamilton)

Tenant Advisory Committee

2011 Work Plan

Renters as Voters

- Met with the Hamilton Civic League to educate them on the need to include tenants as part of their voter turnout campaign.
- Developed a pamphlet that reminded tenants why their vote is critical in the Provincial election (see next slide).
- Considering a pilot project in the future to identify apartment buildings with more than 100 units that may benefit from an in-house polling station, as per the Ontario Election Act (Polling Places)

Some people think that tenants won't bother voting in the election. On October 6, send a message:



I'm a tenant and I...

- **Pay taxes**
- **Understand I have rights**
- **Care about my community**
- **Can make a difference in this election!**

HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR VOTERS



- The Hamilton Civic League
wevote.ca
- Elections Ontario
elections.on.ca
- Vote for Housing
voteforhousing.ca

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Tenant Advisory Committee

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2011 Work Plan

Monitoring the Official Plan Targets

- TAC continues to be concerned about the lack of affordable rental housing being built in Hamilton (not reaching the annual target of 629 new rental units as identified in the Official Plan)
- TAC recognizes that it will require creativity and investment from senior levels of government to reach our targets
- To that end, TAC will be coming forth with a report to E&CS recommending that Council advocate to the Provincial and Federal governments for a larger allocation in the Investment in Affordable Housing Program

Tenant Advisory Committee

2011 Work Plan

Rooming Houses

- A critical concern for TAC is the poor quality of some rooming houses and how that quality affects tenants.
- We understand that the Housing Help Centre is currently working on this and will look for more information about how to best support that work.

Tenant Advisory Committee

2011 Work Plan

Landlord Registry Pilot

- TAC requested an update on the Voluntary Landlord Registry and understand an update will not be available for a few months yet.

TENANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THANK YOU!

