

Ward 22, St. Paul's

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Municipal Licensing and Standards Committee
10th Floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

June 25, 2014

Re: LS 29.1 - Results of Feasibility Review - Maintaining Current Date Ranges for Provision of Heat to Residential Rental Units

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Toronto tenants have the right to a comfortable and healthy home. While staff has presented compelling data that suggests there are still too many cold days in May to change the date on which the City allows landlords to turn off the heat in apartment buildings, there is still an increasing number of warm days in May.

As there is a minimum temperature to protect tenants, it may be necessary to set an acceptable maximum temperature at which rooms can be heated.

Please consider the accompanying recommendations intended to protect our tenants.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Licensing and Standards Committee:

1. Requests the Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, to review Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 629, Property Standards - D(4) *Window protection in apartment buildings* to examine the possibility eliminating the use of a 'guard' or a 'controlled sash' that restricts outside air into apartment units.
2. Requests the Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, to include at least one City Councillor from the Tenants' Subcommittee of the Community Development and Recreation Committee in the *Municipal Roundtable* referred to in the Staff Report accompanying item LS 29.1.

3. Requests the Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, to hold at least three (3) consultations, open to the general public, to present recommendations from the *Municipal Roundtable* and receive input from tenants regarding maximum heat standards, heating requirements, cooling rooms, building codes, air conditioning, subsidies and access to cool spaces.
4. Requests the Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, to emphasize and prioritize environmentally sustainable options for cooling apartment buildings and/or units and ensure that relevant experts are invited to participate in the *Municipal Roundtable* and subsequent public consultations identified in Recommendation 3.
5. Requests the Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, to request the Medical Officer of Health for Toronto to report on whether a maximum temperature for apartment units is needed and, if so, identify an appropriate temperature.
6. Requests the Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, to report back to the May 2015 meeting of the Licensing and Standards Committee, and the next meeting after that date of the Tenants' Subcommittee of the Community Development and Recreation Committee, on Recommendations 1-5, the results of the *Municipal Roundtable* and other relevant measures regarding maximum heat standards, heating requirements, cooling rooms, building codes, air conditioning, subsidies and access to cool spaces for tenants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Matlow', with a large, sweeping horizontal flourish underneath.

Josh Matlow
City Councillor
Ward 22 – St. Paul's