

October 10, 2024

Dear Members of Council and the Community and Protective Services Committee

I am writing to express my strong support for the recommendations outlined in the report regarding the **Tenant Support Fair** held on **March 22, 2024**, at City Hall. This groundbreaking event highlighted the **urgent needs of tenants** in our community, revealing the severe living conditions many face, including **pest infestations, inadequate maintenance, and a lack of support for vulnerable populations**.

The report clearly illustrates that tenants—especially the **elderly, individuals with disabilities, single parents, and low-income families**—are often caught in **unequal power dynamics** with their landlords. Many feel unable to voice their concerns due to fear and confusion surrounding the reporting process. The participation of **over 100 attendees** at the Tenant Support Fair underscores the critical need for ongoing support and advocacy for these individuals.

I fully endorse the four policy recommendations from LIFE*SPIN, with particular emphasis on restoring funding for **VHA Home HealthCare's Extreme Clean Program**. This program is essential for vulnerable tenants, as it provides critical support for maintaining safe living environments. **Without it, we risk an increase in pest infestations and related health issues**, which disproportionately affect those already facing challenges due to age, disability, or economic hardship. **I have witnessed firsthand how this program empowers tenants to prepare their units for effective pest treatments, makes them feel in control and ultimately safeguards their health and well-being. This program also helps protect their neighbors and surrounding properties.**

The specific recommendations include:

1. **Annual Tenant Support Fair:** Coordinating and funding this event will empower tenants by providing them with crucial resources and a platform for self-advocacy.
2. **Funding for the Extreme Clean Program:** Restoring this vital service is crucial to assist tenants in preparing their units for effective pest treatments, particularly for those with special needs.
3. **Strengthening the Property Standards By-law:** Enhancing enforcement and clarity will ensure that tenants' rights are upheld and that they have a clear path to report unsafe living conditions.



4. **Establishing a Public Extermination Service:** This proactive approach will address pest problems as a public health concern and ensure that low-income tenants receive the assistance, they need without added financial burden.

The issues highlighted in the report **resonate deeply** with our mission to keep vulnerable people safe in their homes. By adopting these recommendations, particularly the **Extreme Clean Program**, we can create a **safer, healthier environment for tenants** and take significant steps toward reducing further **homelessness impacts** on our city.

I urge the Council to carefully consider these recommendations and take action to support the **vulnerable tenants** in our community. Together, we can ensure that all residents of London have access to **safe and secure housing**.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Davis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Melissa Davis

Supervisor, Responsive Community Care
Safer Spaces: Hoarding Support & Restored Home: Extreme Cleaning
VHA Home HealthCare

