

David Dimitrie
412-1128 Adelaide St. N.
London, ON
N5Y 2N7

To: Chair Planning & Environment Committee
City Council, City of London

January 20, 2015

I have asked Ms. Heather Lysynski for delegation status at the February 17th, 2015 Planning and Environment Committee. I plan to speak on a report from planning dealing with notification to tenants. This report was requested by the previous Council last spring.

I don't intend to use my entire allotted ten minutes to present new material. I hope to use some of this time for any questions that Committee members might have for me.

I am including several attachments with this submission. I request that they be included in the agenda for this meeting. A great deal of time has passed since this matter first occurred and several items have arisen that are pertinent to this discussion:

Item 1: London Free Press Article by Hank Daniszewski, Tuesday October 21, 2014

Title: A procedural change has meant thousands of Londoners have been left off the civic election voters' list.

Relevance to Meeting: The article indicates that City Clerk sent election material to Landlords who were supposed to forward it on to tenants. The article indicates that Landlords did not comply. I have long said that this method of delivery was ineffective as it depended on the goodwill of landlords who might or might not comply to the request. As a former tenant leader in London, this I don't find this surprising at all, yet this is what staff recommended seven years ago in the policy changes. It has been brought up by many again in this case.

Tenants should not be beholden to landlords to provide them vital municipal voting information. Letters sent via to occupant via Canada Post would accomplish the task regardless of who lives in the unit.

<http://www.lfpress.com/2014/10/20/a-procedural-change-has-meant-thousands-of-londoners-have-been-left-off-the-civic-election-voters-list-but-as-mondays-vote-approaches-all-is-not-lost-hank-daniszewski-reports>

On May 26th, 2014 I received a reply from the Ontario Human Rights Commission regarding my inquiry to them into this matter. In the letter, Inquiry Analyst, Ashley Lawrence wrote the following:

“The OHRC recognizes the role the municipalities play in advertising public meetings and other events. For example, in *“Room for Everyone: Human Rights and rental housing licensing/,”* the OHRC recommends that when developing bylaws, municipalities should consult with groups that are likely to be impacted by the bylaw in question, including conducting targeted outreach to marginalized communities.”

I have included the entire “Room for Everyone” document in this email. I am requesting that it be included in its entirety in the agenda for this meeting. In the case of this project, a road widening occurred for an extended period adjacent to this project. The main arterial road was narrowed several times with no warning causing traffic backups and difficulty for many persons who were crossing Adelaide/Huron at various points. It would have been simple courtesy for the large number of tenants who populate this area to have known in advance what was going to happen to the area they call home.

I certainly hope that Committee members educate themselves on the background of this issue. Basically it is one of fairness. Are tenants entitled to the same kind of notification by ANY City department that homeowners receive. If not, is this discrimination going to survive tests at the Ontario Human Rights Commission and Tribunal which will undoubtedly occur at some point in London or elsewhere in Ontario at some point. Moreover, the Residential Tenancies Act, 2006 is 9 years old and due for amendments or a re-write. This issue will be raised.

Sincerely,
David Dimitrie