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Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 8:00 AM
To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item 6.2 July 5th Council meeting

As a long time renter, both here in London and the GTA area, I'd like to comment on matter 6.2 "RentSafeLondon" program.

During recent council and committee meetings, I have heard the many reasons many feel a program such as the one the renting citizens of London are begging for, is not necessary. Many of these explanations focus on MONEY. Either the cost to the property owners. People who I promise you are in no way about to suffer if they are actually held accountable for their rental properties. While they rake in the money, they let tenants suffer with the highest rents possible and reinvest little to nothing in maintenance imaginable. They need to be made to abide by human rights, health and safety and so much more, but without proper programs such as the RentSafe program they get away with robbing people every month, over and over.

Then there's the argument of the cost to implement and maintain such a program. Each time I hear this excuse, I fail to hear anyone state that that the annual licensing fees as well as other expenses that WILL be passed down to the property owner if the program is enforced more efficiently than London's current Landlord Licensing program, will offset most of not all, of any implementation and maintenance costs. And as a wise man once said, one needs to spend money to make money.

In addition, this program should include all scopes of rental properties ie: High rises, 3 stories, converted multi unit and single family houses and even rental retail units as the issue of negligent property owners is not an issue limited to only one or two types of rental properties.

Without such a program London will continue to be preyed on by greedy out of town developers who want to take advantage of the lack of accountability being allowed by London's governing office so they can continue to live in luxury in other cities, while London citizens are living in unhealthy housing paying rent so high they have to sacrifice everyday necessities.

Until London makes these needed changes, we will continue to see a rise in homelessness, mental health issues, drug addiction and violence.

Thank you

Diane Devine