



Deputy Mayor

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CHAIR, GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
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NIGHT ECONOMY CHAMPION, CITY OF TORONTO

September 19, 2025

Minister Rob Flack
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing of Ontario
17th Floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Flack,

Re: Briefing Note – Inspection Challenges Related to Illegal Rooming Houses in Toronto

It was a pleasure meeting with yourself and your staff in Ottawa last month during the AMO Conference! I am writing to follow up on discussions we had during our meeting with regards to legal access by our staff to inspect illegal rooming houses. I have enclosed a Briefing Note outlining the City of Toronto's current challenges and processes for your interest.

The City of Toronto continues to respond to growing concerns around unlicensed multi-tenant housing, which often presents serious risks to occupant safety and community well-being. However, our enforcement efforts are constrained by legal, operational, and jurisdictional limitations which require provincial attention and support.

The attached Briefing Note provides a detailed overview of:

- The legal limitations faced by Municipal Licensing & Standards (MLS) Officers in entering dwelling units.
- Toronto's position on expanding inspection authority.
- The inspection processes followed by MLS and Toronto Fire Services (TFS).
- The coordination challenges between Divisions.
- Relevant inspection statistics and outcomes.

We hope this information will assist in identifying opportunities for enhanced collaboration between not just Toronto, but all municipalities and your government, particularly in the areas of:

- Strengthening inter-agency coordination frameworks.
- Supporting education and enforcement initiatives.
- Exploring policy or legislative adjustments that balance privacy rights with public safety.

I deeply appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working together to ensure safe, legal, and affordable housing for all residents across Ontario.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Ainslie
Deputy Mayor
City of Toronto, Councillor
Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

c.c. Mayor Olivia Chow, City of Toronto
Robin Jones, President of AMO