



Mayor Carter and Members of Council  
City of Oshawa  
50 Centre Street South  
Oshawa, ON L1H 3Z7

September 29, 2023

Re: Report SF-23-28

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The Durham Region Home Builders' Association is in receipt of Report SF-23-28 – *Additional Proposed Policy Options for the Residential Rental Housing Licensing Program* and watched the Safety and Facilities Committee meeting held on September 18, 2023, and has circulated this information to our GR committee. Our comments on this report are based on their feedback.

The DRHBA's position remains as it was in the correspondence submitted on September 15, 2023, May 17, 2023 and May 4, 2022.

While we appreciate that staff incorporated some of the information and suggestions provided by delegations in 2022 to create "Option E", DRHBA is still not in support of a city-wide expansion of the R.R.H.L.

DRHBA maintains that there is already provincial legislation and municipal bylaws in place to effectively manage rentals in the City of Oshawa, and that the R.R.H.L. program will not provide any additional tools to help weed out bad landlords and subpar and unsafe rentals.

As we are currently in an unprecedented housing affordability crisis, it would be counterintuitive to expand a program that will ultimately increase rental rates in legal, safe units, while having little to no impact on the illegal, unsafe units.

DRHBA understands that Council wants to ensure that residents have a safe place to live. However, there is existing legislation and municipal by-laws already in place that regulate rental housing and the safety of rental units.

Instead, expanding the program will only serve to add an additional layer of red tape around housing – which is already in crisis. Added fees and duplication of regulations will only serve to increase rents and decrease the number of rental units available on the market, as it may serve to discourage small landlords from entering the rental market. Combined with the fact that there really hasn't been a concerted

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effort to entice development of more purpose-built rental units, it is really this shortage of available units that will continue to prop up ever-increasing rental rates.

As an Association, we are championing housing affordability and will only support initiatives that will lead to greater supply, less red tape and more housing options for the residents of Oshawa and Durham Region.

We look forward to continuing to work with City staff to ensure that all residents of Oshawa have a safe and affordable place to call home.

Sincerely,

Stacey Hawkins  
Executive Officer  
Durham Region Home Builders' Association

Cc:  
Domenic Chiodo, President, DRHBA  
Nick Henley, Chair, GR Committee, DRHBA  
DRHBA Membership

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