



TCHC Community Safety

Item 4F

March 24, 2021

Tenant Services Committee

Report: TSC:2021-21

To: Tenant Services Committee (“TSC”)

From: Chief Operating Officer

Date: March 7, 2021

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek the TSC’s approval to appoint Committee members to be part of a community safety advisory body. Management recognizes the significant interest the Board, and more specifically, this Committee, has in setting the direction for TCHC’s ongoing work in supporting safer communities for tenants.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the TSC appoint Committee member(s) to be part of a community safety advisory body who will work with TCHC staff and City staff to define the mandate and principles, and develop governance options for a review of TCHC’s community safety activities, including the role of the Community Safety Unit (“CSU”), for Board approval.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Toronto Community Housing is committed to enhancing community safety for all tenants, and acknowledges that safer communities are built through collaboration with tenants, social service partners and the wider community, and that enforcement is not the primary path to achieving this outcome.

To achieve this commitment, TCHC must consider the following:

- 1) The Role of the Board and the Tenant Services Committee: The Tenant Services Committee has indicated an ongoing and specific interest in providing input into TCHC's directional approach to Community Safety, and Committee members have a depth of expertise that will inform and enhance this review work. The participation of members to the Committee is central to the success of any ongoing work on community safety at TCHC, which is why Management is recommending that Committee members participate in both the development of the parameters for the review and in the ongoing oversight of the work, as outlined above. Furthermore, the framework within which this work is to be undertaken should be developed through collaboration between members of the Committee and TCHC and City staff.
- 2) The Confronting Anti-Black Racism ("CABR") Strategy: The strategy outlines how community safety, and the work of CSU specifically, can be re-conceptualized to address systemic issues that disproportionately impact Black tenants. The strategy calls on TCHC to adopt a proactive and solution-oriented approach in alignment with the core cultural competencies. This will be achieved through the implementation of an eight-point plan which will address anti-Black racism, community-centered safety, fair housing, economic development, healthy communities, accessible support, and divesting from police culture.
- 3) Ensuring Local Input and Decision-Making: Through the implementation of the Tenant Service Hub model and the four service pillars (cleaning, maintenance, tenancy management, and community safety and support), TCHC staff are delivering services closer to tenants. In each hub, the staff operating within the community safety and support pillar deliver services to tenants through community development, engagement and safety. It is through this work that TCHC partners with tenants to better understand the needs of communities and allocate the appropriate resources and support to deliver local solutions.

- 4) Collaboration with the City: In 2020 City Council directed the Tenants First Office to review the Community Safety Unit as a part of the Annual Mandate Direction document from the City as Shareholder. This review should be directed through the entity referenced above in order to fully align City and TCHC priorities.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:

Violence and crime has a significant impact on the day to day lives of TCHC tenants and solutions must be implemented to enhance the safety of TCHC communities. Community Safety and Support staff, from the CSU and from the Engagement and Community Development teams, play a critical role in ensuring the safety of tenants. TCHC must build on its efforts to-date with key partners to consider the future delivery of community safety services for TCHC tenants in alignment with our responsibility to ensure that tenants experience reasonable enjoyment in their homes. Failure to act in partnership with tenants and under the oversight and governance of the Board will result in ongoing negative impacts on TCHC tenants, a population with a high proportion of Black, Indigenous and People of Colour, and other equity groups. We have an opportunity to reimagine how we create safe communities and the creation of a community safety body is a critical next step.

SIGNATURES:

“Sheila Penny”

Sheila Penny
Chief Operating Officer

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