

Dear Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our deep concern and to request your urgent intervention regarding a series of distressing actions taken by our landlord, who recently purchased our building at 250 Frederick Street. These actions have severely impacted not only our quality of life but also that of our fellow tenants, some of whom are particularly vulnerable.

In April, our landlord unjustly withdrew access to parking spaces from myself and several of our neighbours for which we have been paying monthly for years. This has forced us to park on nearby streets under a city-granted exemption. While this temporary measure is appreciated, it has led to overcrowded streets and dissatisfaction among the local community. Additionally, our vehicles are now less secure, and many of us, including ourselves, face the possibility of increased insurance rates due to the lack of a secure parking facility.

Despite our ongoing monthly payments for parking, the landlord has resorted to issuing parking tickets, utilizing city resources to enforce this illegal withdrawal of services. This misuse of municipal resources to bully tenants is unacceptable and unjust.

Furthermore, our landlord is scheduled to appear before your committee to request additional changes to the parking plan for our building. Given the current disputes and the ongoing case at the landlord-tenant board, we strongly urge the committee to defer any decision on this matter until the board has rendered its judgment.

The parking issue is part of a broader pattern of neglect and intimidation by the landlord. The garbage chute is inoperative, forcing all tenants, including elderly individuals, to manually carry their trash downstairs. This poses a significant hardship for those with mobility issues. The building's overall maintenance has deteriorated alarmingly: the hallways are filthy, gardens unkempt, lawns rarely mowed, and stairwells dusty. The stench from overflowing garbage and recycling bins, left unattended for days, permeates the premises.

Moreover, tenants have received threatening notes demanding the removal of air conditioners in the heat of summer and the transfer of electricity bills to our names, despite our leases including electricity costs. These threats of legal action for non-compliance add to the stress and harassment we face daily.

While walking to our car is an inconvenience for us, it is an overwhelming challenge for some of our neighbours. Carrying groceries over longer distances and navigating dark streets at night increases the risk of harm. Our community deserves better than to live in fear and discomfort due to the actions of a neglectful landlord.

We implore the committee to consider our predicament and the pressing need for a resolution that prioritizes the well-being of all tenants. Delaying any decisions on the parking plan until the landlord-tenant board has heard our case will ensure that justice is served and that the landlord is held accountable for their actions.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Tessa D'Achille and Matthew Lavrisa