

TORONTO COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS TEE MEETING

JUNE 25, 2024

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WRITTEN DEPUTATIONS

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**Item 5. Point 6. BRIEFING NOTE – LOCKING OF FIRE HOSE CABINETS**

Thank you for the Briefing Note on the Locking of Fire Hose Cabinets, which I deputed on in December. Management were not aware Fire Hose Cabinets were being locked portfolio wide.

I reviewed the December 6, 2023 meeting online to listen to management’s feedback:

Allen Murray stated: The Deputant is correct. There are CERTAIN buildings where we do lock the cabinets. We review the incidents in the buildings to make that decision, but it isn’t a wholesale policy across the portfolio.

Nadia Gouveia wanted to clarify the items referenced, ie; which buildings where this is actually occurring, to ensure we have a system in place BEFORE we make that determination.

We already know it is permissible, but not a requirement under the Fire Code to Lock Fire Hose Cabinets with the caveat the glass must be scored, which has been done.

Locking Fire Hose Cabinets portfolio wide is counterintuitive. It may actually result in more extensive damages from fires that are not extinguished quickly. In an emergency situation, human beings simply react.

We know the majority of tenants do not have contents insurance, they cannot afford to lose everything they own. Tenants who help their neighbour extinguish a fire minimize damages and reduce capital repair costs. They would fall under the Good Samaritan Act providing assistance in a true emergency situation. They are not touching the Fire Hose.

It is critical that small fires be extinguished within minutes to prevent spread. This has been done successfully for the past 20 years across the portfolio, where the fire has been extinguished by tenants long before the TFS arrives.

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TFS personnel thanked the tenants for their quick response, they did not reprimand the tenant for using the fire extinguisher.

Tenants are very upset with this decision and have been asking why the Fire Hose Cabinets are suddenly being locked, after being accessible to tenants for the past 20 years.

We know TCHC carefully manages the capital repair budgets to keep buildings in a state of good repair. From a tenants' perspective the report says "We're locking all Fire Hose Cabinets", because we can, not out of necessity and not because it is a Fire Code requirement." Is this a good use of Taxpayers money?"

It's now official, TCHC has made this "a wholesale policy across the portfolio". I still feel this is a great disservice to tenants, who have been able to access a Fire Extinguisher in their community when they needed it most.

Defibrillators are available in most public spaces, you do not need to be a medical professional to use one – they come with instructions. So too is the case with a Fire Extinguisher, *(which also has instructions)*.

A locked Fire Hose Cabinet may slow tenants down, but will not deter them from smashing the glass to get access to the Fire Extinguisher in the event of an emergency. There would not be consequences for using a Fire Extinguisher for the purpose it is intended.

I will reiterate what I said 6 months ago – "Just because you CAN do something, doesn't mean you SHOULD".

Thank you.

**Item 6. CSU REVIEW**

Tenants will much appreciate this review being undertaken by the City.

We know there have been various changes in the CSU model. The initial model included foot patrols in all communities. Today, this service is only provided to the 11 communities in the VRP (Violence Reduction Program).

As a result, many communities do not feel CSU is providing equitable service. Over the years there were multiple conversations of TPS officially taking over the CSU.

I reviewed the CSU annual report provided to the TPS, it appears the CSU has become an arms-length division of TPS. The majority of CSU officers are designated Special Constables, giving them powers of arrest.

The overarching objective of the current CSU is to “reduce Crime, ASB and provide support to TPS by conducting investigations, collecting evidence, arresting & transporting criminals to TPS for processing”, this work was otherwise the responsibility of TPS.

This serves TPS well. At the same time, we know the majority of tenant safety concerns are things like the right to peace and enjoyment, by-law enforcement issues, tenants with mental health concerns, harassment and bullying, tenant disputes, drug and gang activity and parking enforcement.

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These are some of the challenges TCHC tenants face every day that negatively impact their quality of life.

I am pleased to see Tenant Consultations included in this review. For it is in the heart of the community where we begin to understand the tenants' perception of community safety, the service they receive and the service that they need.

Thank you for undertaking this important review, we look forward to seeing the results and recommendations later this year.

Thank you.

## CSU REVIEW

Over the last three years I have spoken about the merits to equip our Special Constables attached to the Community Safety Unit , for accountability and transparency, We started with the TPS, Now TTC special constables are equipped and more reason to have our CSU Officers with BODY WORN CAMERAS

### PAGE 20 :

The CSU also began exploration into the implementation of a Body Worn Camera program. The CSU and "The Centre" plan on actively engaging with tenants, staff, and other key stakeholders in determining the positives and negatives of a BWC program before submitting a business case to the TCHC Board of Directors.

Other CABR action items we continue to work on are aligning services with the TCHC HUB model, providing increased education for the CSU to racialized and marginalized communities, as well as the CSU Black Employee Life Cycle.

**Yesterday I attended the Police Services Board to hear about the Annual TCHC Special Constables report and the conversation was directed towards training , turkey giveaways, and Community Engagement**

**Councillor Lily Cheng, suggested to the TPS Paul Johnson superintendent to add to the CSU training program the Neighbourhood Community Officers that is provided by the Toronto Police. Not just happy faces at Toy Give Aways but building relationship through the year it is important to maintain trust with Tenants.**

One reason that is important to point out are the missing CCTV cameras on every FLOOR in our TCHC Buildings, I think CSU Officers will appreciate for their own safety when they arrive to buildings in Regent Park Phases 1 and 2.. 180 Sackville Street , 230 Sackville Street and 1 Oak Street. We know that a Capital Project request to equip with CCTV cameras still has not been approved for those TCHC buildings.

Also I want continue remind you Board Members CSU Officers don't deal directly with NOISE BYLAW COMPLAINTS those noise issues are suppose to be handle by the Hub Office - Management. I have asked if we have a solid plan to deal with Noise Complaints .. normally the City Bylaw Enforcement Officers are contacted when these type of complaints arise. CSU OFFICERS Job is to documents the number of calls of noise complaints

We also recommend that Management and the CSU must be working in parallel so they are both aware of these type of issues.

We have been consulted extensively on the CSU review and in my community many of the complaints was in relation to STOLEN evils, Bikes that needs to be addressed .

I am thankful that the TENANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE is developing a plan to encourage TCHC tenants to have a CONTENTS INSURANCE I do hope they can add that there is an INSURANCE COMPANY - TD INSURANCE covers Ebikes and Bikes insurance..

Also I have provided a DRAFT proposal for the Implementation of an Ebike and Bike Policy to address the fires in our units due to malfunction bike batteries or chargers. The need to provide ebike and bike spaces should be a priority to avoid a tragic loss of a resident

Sincerely

Miguel Avila

## 14 RECOMMENDATIONS

TCHC is committed to the the 14 recommendations made by the City Ombudsman in 2023

So I did the exercise like many disappointed TCHC residents experience when they have to approach the NEWLY REVISED and IMPROVED Human Rights Complaint Process that you claim to have.

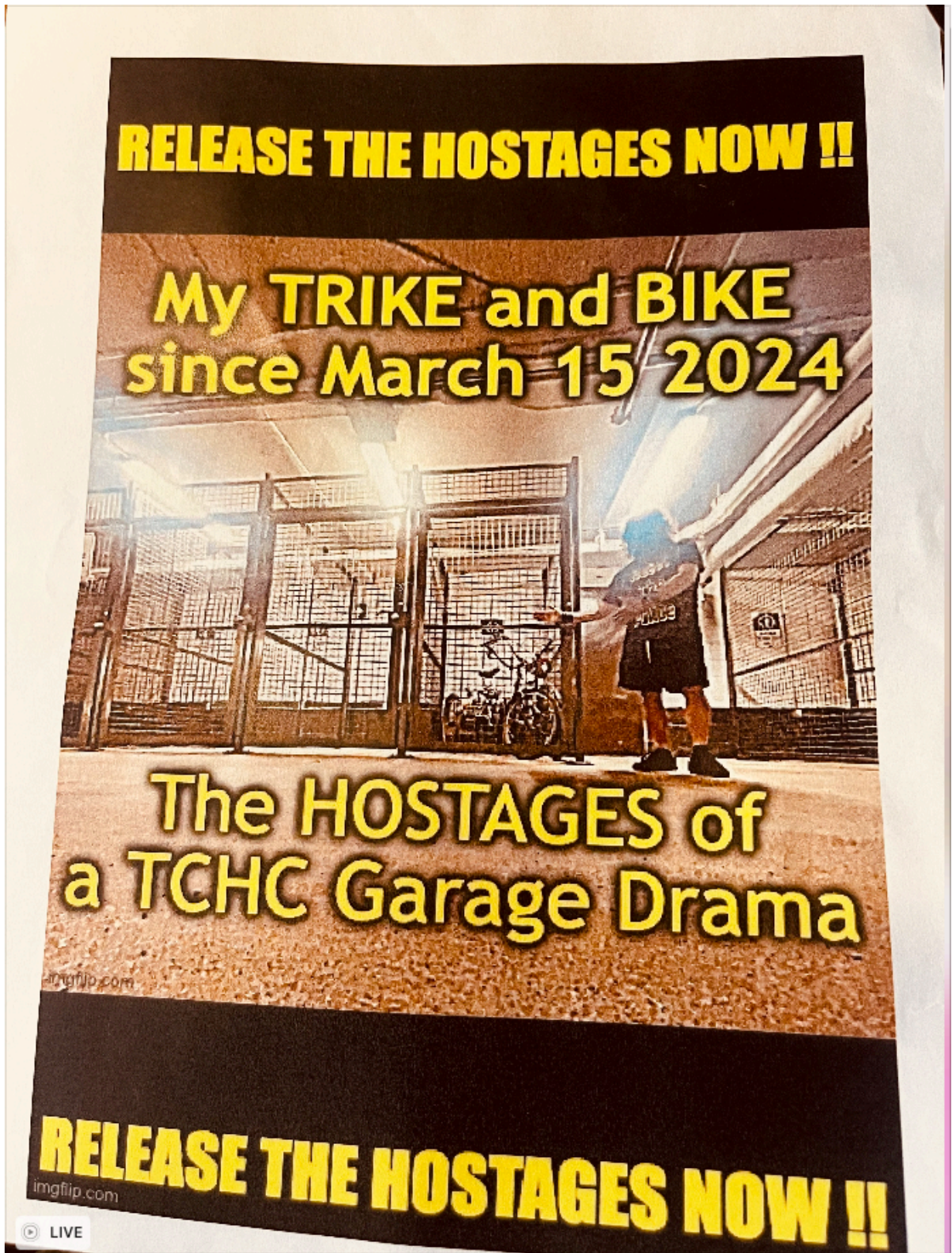
I would hereby like to raise some inconsistencies, omissions and mistakes in your HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATIONS is crucial for the integrity of your investigation.

First of all. It is very surprising how you can conclude an investigation without hearing from all parties, neither myself nor other individuals who have knowledge of the Human Right Case have been interviewed or asked to submit statements. So, it appears that TCHC conducts investigations of themselves, which is a very biased and flawed approach that secures results that are one-sided and favour TCHC.

The above is the ongoing request by many residents that attended the consultations.. it is like why are we being consulted expecting a different process? Seriously?

**I would highly recommend that you once more re-open your investigation and this time use a neutral and unbiased approach which includes interviewing me the other parties connected with my mental health support**





Sincerely

Miguel Avila