



Deputy Mayor
PAUL AINSLIE
CITY OF TORONTO - COUNCILLOR
WARD 24 SCARBOROUGH-GUILDWOOD

100 QUEEN STREET WEST, SUITE C52
COUNCILLOR_AINSLIE@TORONTO.CA
416-392-4008

150 BOROUGH DRIVE, 2ND FLOOR
COUNCILLOR_AINSLIE_CO@TORONTO.CA
416-396-7222

CHAIR, GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
CHAIR, SCARBOROUGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CHAIR, BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE TORONTO ZOO
CHAIR, FEDERATION OF ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARIES
CHAIR, TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
NIGHT ECONOMY CHAMPION, CITY OF TORONTO

February 10, 2026

Jon Pegg
Ontario Fire Marshall
25 Morton Shulman Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M3M 0B1
Jon.Pegg@ontario.ca

Dear Fire Marshall Pegg,

I am writing further to Minister Flack's recent response to my letter, in which he suggested that I contact you directly regarding the challenges municipalities face in addressing unlicensed multi-tenant housing.

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 that require provincial attention and support.

I would like to highlight key challenges related specifically to Toronto Fire Services' (TFS) inspection processes for illegal rooming houses and request provincial assistance. These issues stem from broad legislative authorities, the complaint-driven nature of inspections, the need for coordinated enforcement with other City divisions, and the fact that TFS's mandate is limited to fire and life safety matters.

Below are specific issues related to TFS's current authority and inspection processes:

- **Toronto Fire Services (TFS) Authority and Inspection Process**
TFS responds to complaints, referrals, or requests, often in coordination with Municipal Licensing & Standards (MLS), Toronto Building, or Police Services.
- Under the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act* (FPPA), TFS Inspectors may enter premises without a warrant at reasonable times.
- Inspectors may examine documents, conduct tests, take samples, and interview individuals.
In emergencies, TFS may remove occupants, install temporary fire protection equipment, or take other necessary actions.

We hope this information will assist in identifying opportunities for enhanced collaboration between not just Toronto, but all municipalities, 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 Minister Flack's direction to bring these concerns to your office.

I 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