



Executive Committee
Committee Room 1, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Date: June 16, 2017
Subject: Licensing Exemptions for Fraternities and Sororities

Dear Chair and Members,

We, the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union (UTGSU) Executive Committee, support Councillor Joe Cressy's recommendation "to review and report back on whether fraternity and sorority houses should be licensed as multi-tenant houses and the feasibility of removing the exceptions for fraternities and sororities (as in Chapter 285, Rooming Houses, Section 285-8 Exceptions)".

We acknowledge that fraternity and sorority houses continue to have detrimental impacts on our environment, community living, and overall sense of security. This impact, as Cressy has outlined, goes well beyond "problematic behaviour". As several media reports and studies have noted, these houses not only lack appropriate regulatory frameworks, but they also abhorrently foster rape culture, making repeated offenses of sexual violence routine occurrences (see, for example, Peggy Reeves Sanday's book entitled *Fraternity, Gang Rape: Sex, Brotherhood, and Privilege*). As such, we urge your Committee to conduct a thorough review with these concerns in mind.

The UTGSU Executive Committee believes that an investigation into appropriate regulatory frameworks is a necessary step forward to ensure the safety of our City and our neighborhoods.

CC University of Toronto Community Liaison Committee

Sincerely,

The UTGSU Executive Committee