



Letter from a Concerned Resident

Dear RA:

Rooming houses are illegal in Scarborough, but they are popping up all around our neighbourhoods. When I call 311 there is very little they can do. Driving through the neighbourhood these homes stand out with unkempt lawns, multiple cars on the property. Some of these rooming houses have been operating for a longer period and others are/were just temporary until the developer can gain approval to tear down and build an excessively large home well beyond the already generous zoning bylaws. I wonder what the quality of these builds is given that the whole process seems profit driven?

On our street there is a home that has been operating as an illegal rooming house for over 2 years. At this home there are typically 8-10 cars parked in the driveway at any time and we have counted up to 14 people living in this small bungalow. The basement has apparently been turned into multiple units that are also being rented out. We have seen people coming and going from this property, even seen mattresses and luggage being delivered in the middle of the night. This property and the many other illegal rooming houses in our neighbourhood have properties that are not well maintained with long grass and excessive garbage issues impacting the enjoyment and showing total disregard for their neighbours. Not to mention the status of the living areas for the residents of these illegal rooming houses are not well maintained and do not support the amount of people cohabiting in these homes. This is being experienced with homes all over our neighbourhood and in the City.

While I know there are so many looking for affordable housing in our City and these properties provide more affordable housing for local residents, the living conditions are not up to standards and not being regulated nor enforced by MLS. For the house on our street various neighbours have complained about this specific home for the lack of maintenance of their property and for operating an illegal rooming house. The owner keeps getting letters from MLS to maintain their property, but the complaint for the illegal rooming house still has not been dealt with after all of this time. We keep getting responses from MLS that an investigation is underway or that they have been provided with an infraction, but nothing seems to happen.

In 2021 City Council pushed for a further review of the legalization of rooming houses across the City. The big question is would these landlords that do not hesitate to break the rules now take the time to register these illegal rooming houses and if

not then the problem is not being addressed because MLS will still not have access to these homes. What is it going to take for our City to finally deal with these illegal rooming house issues?

*Sincerely,
Concerned Resident*

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