

Dear Legislative Services,

I am writing in response to the notification regarding the May 12, 2025 meeting of the Safety and Facilities Services Committee, where Item SF-25-30 – Maximum Temperature Regulations and Provincial Legislation – will be considered.

As the resident who originally proposed the implementation of a by-law to regulate maximum indoor temperatures in residential rental units, I would like to submit this correspondence and respectfully request that it be read on my behalf at the upcoming Committee meeting. Unfortunately, I have a prior commitment and will be unable to attend in person.

Dear Members of the Safety and Facilities Services Committee,

First, I want to thank the Committee and City staff for their detailed review of this issue and for acknowledging the growing concern around extreme indoor heat. I understand that there are ongoing developments at the provincial level, but I must stress that this remains an urgent local health and safety concern—particularly for vulnerable populations such as seniors, low-income families, and people with disabilities.

I'd also like to report a small but meaningful success: following two years of complaints about old policies delaying air conditioning activation, Durham Regional Non-Profit Co-operative Housing has agreed to begin cooling my building earlier this year—on May 15, 2025. This change is a step in the right direction, and I hope it signals growing awareness of the serious impact heat has on tenant well-being.

That said, we cannot rely solely on provincial timelines or voluntary action. There is still an important opportunity for the City of Oshawa to lead by:

- Establishing interim guidelines to regulate maximum indoor temperatures where A/C systems are already installed;
- Requiring landlords to maintain and operate existing A/C systems during extreme heat;
- Exploring the creation of more public cooling centers for residents in buildings without sufficient cooling infrastructure;
- Providing tenants with a clear complaint and response process for heat-related safety issues.

As stated in my original delegation, this issue is not about comfort—it is about public health and safety. With summers growing hotter and more unpredictable, we must act now to protect the most at-risk members of our community.

Thank you for your continued consideration of this important issue, and for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

Laura Barton