

November 15, 2023

Councillor Ausma Malik
100 Queen St W, Suite C54
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Councillor Dianne Saxe
100 Queen Street West, Suite C47
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Councillor Joshua Matlow
100 Queen Street West, Suite A17
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: REMOVAL OF CARLETON GRANT

Dear Councillors Malik, Matlow, and Saxe,

This letter has been written on behalf of the Richmond Niagara Neighbourhood Association, a grassroots community organization that represents the interests and concerns of residents in the area surrounding the intersection of Richmond Street and Niagara Street in downtown Toronto.

As you are all aware, we have long been deeply dissatisfied with the performance of Mr. Carleton Grant, the Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS). However, it has now reached the point where his outright refusal to enforce city bylaws can no longer be tolerated, and the new administration of Mayor Olivia Chow must see to his immediate removal. Otherwise, Mayor Chow will be saddled with the dead weight of John Tory's bumbling administration.

Each of you has either heard or read our specific complaints about Mr. Grant and the performance of MLS under his leadership (or lack thereof). Our complaints include, without limitation:

- MLS's brazen *refusal* to enforce Toronto bylaws, especially pertaining to short-term rentals and waste disposal;
- The complete degradation of 311 services, which have come to be simply disregarded by many Torontonians due to its notorious ineptitude; and
- The refusal of MLS to appropriately educate and regulate food delivery and rideshare drivers to protect cyclists and pedestrians in this city, notwithstanding the pleas of cycling advocacy and other groups.

These examples demonstrate Mr. Grant's neglect of duty and failure to uphold the responsibilities of his office. And, in particular, the lack of bylaw enforcement has not only *clearly* affected the quality of life in our city, but set a dangerous precedent regarding the accountability and effectiveness of our municipal governance.

Each of you has been contacted by means of this letter for a specific reason, namely:

- Councillor Matlow, for your willingness to call out city staff when they gaslight the public while, in fact, not fulfilling their proper functions;
- Councillor Saxe, for your evident and steadfast determination to effect real positive change in this city; and
- Councillor Malik, due to the fact that you are the councillor for our riding and deputy mayor, notwithstanding that until now you and your office have failed to demonstrate adequate concern for its residents. In particular, your office's outright negligence in ignoring *for months* calls to remedy the hazardous construction chaos at Spadina and Adelaide during the summer - until the outcry became a subject of popular media coverage – was extremely disappointing. However, this is your opportunity to make up for that failure, and show your constituents that you can and will act decisively for their benefit.

As our elected representatives, we urge you to take immediate action on this matter. It is imperative that you convey your constituents' concerns to the Mayor's office, and demand the termination of Mr. Grant's tenure as the Executive Director of MLS.

The citizens of Toronto deserve leadership that is proactive, responsible, and committed to the enforcement of our city's laws and regulations. Mr. Grant has shown himself entirely inept to the task. Accordingly, we trust you will understand the urgency and seriousness of this issue and act promptly to address it.

Sincerely,

Marc Z. Goldgrub

**RICHMOND NIAGARA
NEIGHBOURHOOD
ASSOCIATION**

cc:
Mayor Olivia Chow