

March 25, 2020

Shelagh Molloy, [REDACTED]

City of Regina, Council and Guests,

I have been homeless, more than once in my life. It is a very scary experience. The stigma that is slowly lifting from mental health and addictions is still very present for the poor, and especially the homeless. The terrible housing conditions that I've seen, and sometimes had to rent, would not stand up to any real scrutiny for health and safety violations: broken/missing stair treads and rails.; holes in walls/ceilings/floors; leaking roofs into dwellings; dangerous garbage in yard, e.g. broken glass, construction materials, etc.; broken windows; inadequate/missing smoke detectors; black mold; inadequate wiring/insulation/plumbing/heating; vermin, including bed bugs, cockroaches, and mice.

I am very happy to hear Councillor Hawkins recommend we treat these income property landlords the same as any other Regina business, which require inspections and enforcement of appropriate standards for their enterprises. Otherwise, a good lawyer could argue that the City of Regina is negligent for not performing due diligence on these properties from which they derive tax and utility revenue.

I hope Regina shows real initiative and vision for an ever more caring culture. Our civic pride and reputation are at stake here. I suggest we look to similar cities that have made great strides. We can commit significant funds, as suggested - \$2million per year for five years to the 'Plan to End Homelessness'.

Thank you,

S. Molloy