

TORONTO COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION
BUILDING INVESTMENT, FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 8, 2022

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WRITTEN DEPUTATIONS

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Deputation - Gary Bridgen
Item 6 - Tenant Funds Distribution Policy and Procedures
BIFAC Public Meeting - April 8, 2022

From: GARY BRIGDEN [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 7:01 PM
To: Sonia Fung
Subject: Re: April 8th TCHC BIFAC Meeting - Verbal Deputation re Item 6 (Tenant Funds Distribution Policy and Procedures)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Toronto Community Housing (TCHC). Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

[REDACTED]: We have had great success with the funds we received before Covid. We used the funds to help finance dinner / dances and help pay for bus trips to various locations. (St. Jacobs, Niagara Falls, a trip to see the fall colours etc) We also received funds for exercise equipment , a movie projector and speaker for movie nights, a bench and various other items we needed for the building. The amounts were generally between \$500 and \$800.

If you need any further information, please let me know.

Thank You.

From: GARY BRIGDEN [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 7:31 PM
To: Sonia Fung
Subject: Re: April 8th TCHC BIFAC Meeting - Verbal Deputation re Item 6 (Tenant Funds Distribution Policy and Procedures)

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[REDACTED]: I would like add that we had 70 in attendance for our dinner / dances. We could only accommodate 25 on the trips as we hire a special bus that is built for walkers, wheelchairs and machines. Those buses cost more. The people who go on the bus trips cannot get around very well so they love these trips. The money really benefits the social interaction in the building.

Deputation - Jack Chappelle
 Item 6 - Tenant Funds Distribution Policy and Procedures
 BIFAC Public Meeting - April 8, 2022

From: happyrhodes [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 3:39 PM
To: Sonia Fung
Subject: Senior Building Even Funding

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Toronto Community Housing (TCHC). Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello [REDACTED]; my name is Jack Chappelle. As is [REDACTED], I am an elected Community Representative here at [REDACTED] Place ([REDACTED]) and I'm Secretary/Treasurer of the [REDACTED] Place Seniors Club. I'm very grateful to be able to share some of my views in regards to community activities and funding.

Motivation:

Simply put '*activity takes the place of depression and loneliness*'. Disabled folk and the elderly have many challenges to overcome daily and are prone to despair. That 'alone' feeling and the despondency that comes with it brings on illness, anger, aches, pain and misery. They need human interaction, it's what drives us all, the fuel that gets us up & out of bed and into the shower to face a new bright day. It urges us to keep ourselves and our home clean and tidy. Without human interaction what is there?

We always have something on the go here at [REDACTED] Place. but it does cost some money:

Example: TCHC gave us funds for *Canada Day*; a catered BBQ by a professional with all the condiments; Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Soft Drinks, Water, Ice Cream and cake and all the rest. The place decorated bright and 'all Canadian'. Cheery and fun with both doors to the recreation room wide open and the doors to the outside patio as well. The BBQ stand at the far side of the Court Yard with people sitting out there chatting and eating 'Breaking Bread Together' (so important).

St. Patrick's Day: We all become Irish on St. Patrick's Day. Here at [REDACTED] Place we traditionally have partnered with the New Age Cultural Association and their Disc Jockey and Dancers. Large St. Patrick's Day Cakes, light snacks, soft drinks,

water, ice cream. A real blast. We are all on the floor dancing and singing. It's amazing. Some funds help us with this project. See photos attached.

We had days for many things. Any excuse to get people out of their units, to dress up a bit and mingle with one another. It does wonders for the building. Gossip and Rumors begin to subside, friendships flourish, people take an interest in themselves, their homes and their building.

Bazaars where everyone can have a table of things they wish to sell. Pizza days and all the rest.

Day Bus Trips to St. Jacob's Market is so popular. Very expensive for us as we do not believe in leaving people behind. We hire "Dignity Transportation". A company that specializes in the transportation of the elderly and disabled. They cost more but everyone can come on the adventure. Please see picture Attached

See the fall colours by train and by bus as well as Cavalcades of light during the festive season. So many activities and they all cost.

Dinner/Shows: What great fun with excellent entertainers who put on terrific shows and spur us on to dancing. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to name two popular tribute shows we bring to our community. Turkey dinners served at your table, roast beef and more.

In short [REDACTED]; we do our very best to create a happy busy atmosphere and use day celebrations, day bus and train adventure trips and so much more to accomplish joy and peace in the building but a little help with funding is always needed.

Thank you

[REDACTED] Place

Jack Chappelle

Community Rep & Secretary

[REDACTED] Place Seniors Club

Bus Load for St. Jacob's



Bus Elevator St. Jacob's



Irish Line Dancing March 17, 2018



Irish Steps



Deputation - Michelle Leslie
Item 6 - Tenant Funds Distribution Policy and Procedures
BIFAC Public Meeting - April 8, 2022

From: michelle grant [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 11:18 PM
To: Sonia Fung
Subject: Deputation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Toronto Community Housing (TCHC). Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good day everyone, my name is Michelle Leslie.
I live in the Glendower community. My community is a multicultural community.
In my community I am the tenant representative for the residents that live in the community.

In our community we have a lot of young black youths and adults who are suffering from mental health illness.
I realize that black youths and adults with mental illness do not get the same attention as other race.
To take into consideration that when you are living in low income housing you always get pass over in the system.

We have tried on many occasions to get some funds to do some mental health training for our community and each time we try we were turn down. I decided to try for this grant and hope some one would show us some compassion are could identify with our cause.

I think if TCHC would do a survey in most of there community they would have a better understanding of how little help black youths are offer.
I don't want to put blame on anyone this is not my intention I am just asking for some help as soon as possible.

Thank you for you time.

Michelle Leslie

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From: Nickza Dalas [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 12:19 PM
To: Sonia Fung
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: April 8th TCHC BIFAC Meeting - Written Deputation re Item 6 (Tenant Funds Distribution Policy and Procedures)

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You can also add any information from the article as well if you would like:

<https://www.torontohousing.ca/news/newsletters/Documents/Tenant%20LOOP%20Summer%202021.pdf>

See page 12.

On Thu, Apr 7, 2022 at 12:17 PM Nickza Dalas <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Hello [REDACTED],

I apologize that I am unable to attend tomorrow but here is my written deputation:

I am a first-generation immigrant woman raised in a single parent household, who has been living in a Toronto Community Housing unit in Scarborough for the past 12 years. I began to get involved with initiatives within TCHC as I strongly believe that it is important to have a sense of belonging and satisfaction within our own communities.

That is why I am fully supportive of the Tenant Action Funds. I was fortunate enough to participate in the Tenant Action Funds as a successful applicant who received funding to deliver a Financial Literacy workshop and as a TAF Table member. I noticed that there were a lack of programs/events within my community and because of this approved funding, we were able to organize a session on financial planning (e.g.,

savings on low-income budget, avoiding debt) to a Recreation room full of tenants. As a TAF Table member, I have seen numerous applications filled with creative ideas that have a positive impact on the community as a whole.

If the Tenant Action Funds continues to be put on hold, then it will be harmful for communities, especially during this difficult time as the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic seems to still be lingering. I am concerned that if the Tenant Action Funds does not continue then the mental health of folks who have lost their jobs, been isolated within their units, etc. will continue to deteriorate. This is the most critical period for the Tenant Action Funds to be made available to tenants as sunnier days are right around the corner, when communities most look forward to participating in activities.

Tenant Action Funds allows for tenants/tenant groups to seek out resources for projects and initiatives that directly respond to tenant identified priorities. It provides a unique opportunity for community members to collaborate and work towards common goals which need to be addressed. This initiative allows for diverse and vulnerable individuals to have their ideas heard in a space where they may not otherwise feel that their voices matter.

Thank you,
Nickza Dalas



Get involved in your community through Tenant Action Funds

▲ Nickza Dalas, TCHC tenant and Tenant Action Funds applicant

As a Toronto Community Housing tenant living in the east end of the city, Nickza Dalas understands the need for social services within priority neighbourhoods.

As a first generation immigrant raised in a single parent household, Nickza also knows the importance of managing your money. That's why in 2019, with the help of Tenant Action Funds, she organized a financial literacy workshop in her building to be delivered by WoodGreen Community Services.

"With an annual increase to cost of living, it can be hard to handle money, especially on a lowered income with little exposure to financial planning," Nickza said. "Financial planning encourages others to use the financial services available in the community, create savings, and avoid getting further into debt."

This is something Nickza realized from a young age after having to budget her money in order to meet financial goals and live a more comfortable lifestyle. "From childhood I had to work much harder than the others in my age group to be able to have certain things and experiences, like owning a car or going on vacations," she said.



▲ The 2019 financial literacy workshop organized by Nickza

This workshop was "meaningful for me to foster a sense of connectedness, to create partnerships within the community and to refer tenants to appropriate financial management-related services." Nickza hopes the project encourages tenants to take action and gives them confidence in their financial skills.

She believes the success of the workshop would not have been possible without having access to Tenant Action Funds, because they allow tenants to get involved in their communities and to seek funding for important projects.

"Tenants should get involved because it's a nice way to work together, reach solutions, feel a better sense of belonging, and feel more satisfied within our communities."

If you'd like to learn more about Tenant Action Funds or have an idea for a project to help your community, you can visit torontohousing.ca/TAF or email TAF@torontohousing.ca for more information. ■