

**CITY COUNCILLOR JEFF BOWMAN**

---

**WARDS 3 & 4**

April 3, 2019

Dear Premier Ford,

It is with sadness that I bring to your attention yet another house fire in the City of Brampton, in which there was a fatality recorded by the first responders at the scene.

This fire occurred on Sunday, March 31 at approximately 20:50. The City dispatched two squads, two pumpers, two aerials, along with the District Chief and Platoon Chief, to 35 Stalbridge Avenue, in Ward 4, which I represent on Brampton City Council.

This address also falls within one of the City's three identified "hot zones" – a neighbourhood with an increased incidence of fires.

On arrival, crews found heavy smoke conditions in the downstairs living area and while searching the premises, they discovered a patient, who sadly died from their injuries.

The scene is currently under investigation with our Fire Department and the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office, but they have already determined the basement apartment was illegal.

Although this fire was "minor" from a fire suppression perspective, it highlights the immediate and deadly consequences that a small fire can produce, especially in an illegal basement apartment.

I raise this as an important issue for you and your government, because the City is seeing a marked increase over the years of house fires that have started in homes with a basement apartment, especially secondary units that were not legally registered through the City of Brampton.

This is the first fire fatality in Brampton since 2017, and given the tragic consequences, our City will take the opportunity to increase public education and fire prevention awareness. In fact, the Brampton Fire Chief Bill Boyes and the Brampton Fire team will be knocking on doors in the immediate surrounding area to share fire safety messaging in the community.

Continued on page 2...

**CITY COUNCILLOR JEFF BOWMAN**

---

**WARDS 3 & 4**

-2-

In the 2018-2020 budget document, the City of Brampton established a partnership with Enforcement and By-Law Services to respond to the increased activity around illegal second units. This special task force focuses on illegal secondary units, lodging houses and group homes. Further, it aims to utilize advanced and innovative investigative strategies to combat the proliferation of illegal units in housing within the City of Brampton.

But we need your help.

I am seeking your assistance in updating the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (1997, S.O. 1997, c. 4) and the Building Code Act (1992) to allow City Enforcement officers to enter a premises that is suspected of having an illegal basement apartment. This will help ensure all health and safety protocols are met properly (i.e. sprinklers, smoke detectors and carbon monoxide units are installed), and no sub-par construction or electrical work was done.

I fully understand and appreciate the critical need for affordable housing options, however, it is imperative that these secondary units comply with all current fire and safety codes, and that they are inspected and registered with the City to meet full compliance.

I look forward to your response and am available to meet to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bowman

CC: Patrick Brown, Mayor of Brampton  
Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
MPP Prabhmeet Sarkaria  
MPP Amarjot Sandhu  
MPP Sara Singh  
MPP Kevin Yarde  
MPP Gurratan Singh