

BY FAX AND EMAIL ON 10 AUGUST 2018 TO:

Jim Watson
Mayor
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa ON K1P 1J1

Fax: 613-580-2509
Email: jim.watson@ottawa.ca

**Re Request for Accommodation
Herongate Community**

Dear Mayor Watson:

I have been retained by the individuals listed in the Appendix to this letter with respect to a request for accommodation from Timbercreek and from the City of Ottawa. My clients are all tenants or occupants in the Herongate residential complex owned by Timbercreek. All of them are facing immanent eviction.

I write on their behalf to request accommodation. My clients and many of their co-tenants are being adversely impacted on prohibited grounds as a result of the evictions. All of them are racialized. Many are ethnic Somali or Arab. Because of their skin tone, ethnic origin and place of origin, they have been encountering "housing discrimination" in their searches for alternative housing. Housing discrimination is a social phenomenon that has been very well researched by social scientists. It takes many forms, but in my clients' case it operates to frustrate their attempts to secure alternate affordable housing in Ottawa. This form of discrimination disadvantages people of colour and people with Arabic sounding and/or Muslim names in particular. Because of housing discrimination, my clients are less likely to secure adequate housing at an affordable price.

Housing discrimination is more acute in regions with low vacancy rates, such as that prevailing in Ottawa. The removal of the Herongate units from the rental housing market will further reduce the vacancy rate and exacerbate their experience of housing discrimination.

The evictions also adversely impact my clients by depriving them of the significant social supports they derive from living in a community in which a majority of members share a limited subset of personal characteristics, such as place of origin, religion, and ethnicity. This type of community has also been well researched by social scientists, and in the social science literature it is known as an "ethnic enclave". According to the research, an ethnic enclave is a form of intentional community that develops organically as individuals sharing certain characteristics, such as ethnicity, culture, religion, place of origin, etc., or a limited combination of these characteristics, moves within close proximity to one another in order to provide and receive

social, economic, and cultural support. In short, an ethnic enclave operates as a “mutual-aid network” that informally delivers social and cultural services for the betterment of the community as a whole. Given the tremendous social significance of ethnic enclaves, they are worth preserving.

Such communities are especially important to new Canadians, but all members benefit from them. Enclave members derive significant benefits from the community that help compensate for, and protect them against, discrimination in the wider community. In other words, enclaves operate as bulwarks against discrimination, affording members greater security, both in a literal physical sense, and in an economic, social and cultural sense. Ethnic enclaves also facilitate the preservation of language and culture, and they help promote ethnic businesses that provide services tailored to the specific needs of enclave members. Herongate is just such a community, and my clients are but a few of its many members.

The upcoming evictions thus adversely impact my clients based on prohibited grounds by causing them to experience housing discrimination, and by eroding an ethnic community.

Because the evictions will adversely impact my clients, they are entitled to accommodation pursuant to sections 2 and 11 of the Human Rights Code of Ontario. The accommodations my clients request are:

1. Preservation and reparation of the residential complex; and/or
2. Additional support securing comparable housing in the area in a way that avoids disbanding community members throughout Ottawa; and/or
3. A right of return for community members in the form a right of first refusal on comparably priced units in the redeveloped complex.

As a service provider in a position to prevent the adverse treatment experienced by my clients, both the City of Ottawa and Timbercreek have a legal obligation to provide these accommodations.

I look forward to hearing your response at your earliest convenience. Please feel free to get in touch with me if you would like to discuss this further, or if you have any questions about housing discrimination or the other issues raised in this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Tucker-Simmons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Daniel Tucker-Simmons

APPENDIX “A”

Last name	First name
Amina	Atteyeh
Dakha	Omar
Maha	Jabar
Jamale	Ibrahim
Mohamed	Iman
Ali	Banayan
Hussein	Geire
Abdullahi	Sadiq
Saido	Hersi
Mohamed	Yussuf
Mohamed	Faqi
Mohamed	Bashir
Abtesam	Aoda
Abdullahi	Ali
Saido	Gashan
Abdullah	Deil
Mulki	Abdi Ismail
Nimo	Farah
Asha	Mohamed
Ibrahim	Mohamed
Margaret	Alluker
Amina	Hassan