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# On the record

Every month, the Kitchener Citizen publishes "Notes from City Hall" which Kitchener City Councillors can use to communicate with residents.

In addition to highlighting upcoming community events, I often use this as an opportunity to present my position or invite discussion about issues that pertain to citizens.

Here is one that I think bears repeating.

As housing prices increase for both renters and home purchasers, some landlords are taking advantage of tenants through a practice that has been termed a "renoviction."

It is completely legal for a landlord to require a tenant to move out to perform renovations, if they follow the province's rules and regulations. However, some landlords increase their rent beyond what legal guidelines permit, or allow another tenant to move into the renovated space at an inflated rent price.

When there is an illegal eviction under the pretense of home improvements, repairs or major renovations, I feel this is an unethical practice. Not only does it contribute to the housing crisis, but it harms both citizens and communities, and disproportionately affects our most vulnerable citizens: racialized persons, people with disabilities and low income-earners. If your landlord is requiring you to leave due to renovations or repairs, I strongly suggest you take steps to protect and learn about your legal rights at [ontario.ca](http://ontario.ca) or [tribunalsontario.ca](http://tribunalsontario.ca).

My response to this highly concerning practice, is to bring forward a motion at the Oct. 18 council meeting, asking that council agree to lobby the Province of Ontario to take additional and meaningful steps to address the ever-increasing problem of "Renovictions."

Cities across the country are experiencing an affordable housing crisis. Housing is a human right! Evicting people to generate greater profit should be prohibited!

If you have been a victim of a renoviction, I would love to hear your story. Contact me at [Debbie.Chapman@kitchener.ca](mailto:Debbie.Chapman@kitchener.ca)