



November 13, 2020

ROCKY SIMPSON  
MLA, HAY RIVER SOUTH**Oral Question 438-19(2): Mackenzie Place High Rise**

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on October 30, 2020, regarding the position of the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) on the Mackenzie Place High Rise.

While the building remains closed under a Public Health Order, the OFM does not have any active orders issued against the high-rise owner. Should re-occupancy of the building be considered, the OFM would re-issue an order to address several fire protection issues that were outstanding when the structure was closed to the public by the Department of Health and Social Services. These include:

- Repair of the balconies which are viewed as places of refuge and can help facilitate rescue in the event of a fire. Presently, the balconies are unsafe and not to be accessed by persons. This OFM direction does not affect occupancy of any other location in the structure;
- The 11th floor suffered smoke and heat damage to the fire alarm system during the 2019 fire. This floor would be closed by the OFM to public access until the fire alarm system has been repaired. This OFM direction does not affect occupancy of any other floor in the structure; and
- Confirmation of documentation validating all life safety systems in the building are functioning as intended, have received their required maintenance, and are free of deficiencies. This OFM direction has no bearing on occupancy of the structure at this time.

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Prior to re-issuing OFM orders, a fire safety inspection will need to be conducted to confirm the status of the outstanding issues and ensure the building is safe for occupancy. Any additional departures from the *Fire Prevention Act and Regulations* identified during the inspection would also need to be addressed.

Thank you for your interest on this important topic.



Paulie Chinna  
Minister  
Municipal and Community Affairs

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Legislative Coordinator, Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs  
Deputy Minister, Executive and Indigenous Affairs