

Walter, Penny

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Cameron Choquette - Saskatchewan Landlord Association - Housing Continuum The City of Saskatoon's Current Role in Housing - CK 750-4
Attachments: pdcs_letter_-_housing_continuum.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 3:44 PM

To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>

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--- Replies to this email will go to eo@skla.ca ---

Submitted on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 - 15:43

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

Date Wednesday, June 15, 2022

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name Cameron

Last Name Choquette

Phone Number

Email eo@skla.ca

Address #17-102 Cope Cr.

City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Postal Code S7T 0X2

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) Saskatchewan Landlord Association

Subject Letter Submission - Item #4.4

Meeting (if known) Special SPC on PDCS - June 16, 2022

Comments

Please see the attached letter for submission to the SPC on PDCS for their meeting on June 16, 2022. Thank you.

Attachments

[pdcs letter - housing continuum.pdf](#)

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting? No



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June 15, 2022

SPC on Planning, Development, and Community Services
Saskatoon City Council
222 3rd Ave N.
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

RE: 4.4 – Housing Continuum: The City of Saskatoon’s Current Role in Housing

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of Saskatchewan’s rental housing industry, I’m pleased to provide some additional commentary on the Administration’s report about our local housing continuum. While we appreciate that this Committee and Council are interested in the housing continuum, we don’t believe the piecemeal approach being taken by the City is one that will be successful and yield substantial results.

Continuum Leadership

As I’ve noted in previous letters and presentations at Committee and Council, the role of rental housing in our community cannot be understated. Over 30% of Saskatoon residents live in rental housing, and affordable housing is a key component to the overall housing mix. Other key components of the housing continuum include emergency shelter, short and long-term supportive housing, and ownership housing.

Just last month, the [Saskatchewan Housing Continuum Network](#) was created to collectively promote a healthy housing continuum as the cornerstone of Saskatchewan’s competitive advantage. The Network exists to provide industry information and expert advice on Saskatchewan’s housing continuum to the public, our respective members, and all levels of government.

Failing to Meet Targets

As the report indicates, the Housing Business Plan has failed to meet its targets for the past five years, even as they were revised to reflect changes in the local continuum. While Appendix 2 does include several business functions, there is limited information on if these functions have been exercised and what impact they’ve had on the continuum. It appears that the City has been primarily focused on disbursing funds and not on other functions such as policy development or research and education.

A Variety of Options

The disbursement of housing incentives and incremental tax abatements are two good options for supporting housing development. However, there are variety of other options that the City could consider. Our Association and the Network stand ready to provide industry advice and expertise on future options and how the City can support the entire continuum.

The Pressures of Homelessness

As a key stakeholder in the fight against homelessness and in our work with the Safe Community Action Alliance, we know all too well about the pressures of homelessness and how important community safety and wellbeing is. Based on our experience, we believe that the City should examine how various working groups and decision-making tables are operating. Action should be taken to reduce redundancy and improve coordination, so that we can collectively be more nimble in our response to homelessness.

Future Reporting and Consultation

Municipalities play a significant role in housing development across the province and our Association has been a proud partner of the City's on numerous housing-related issues. While the Administration is recommending additional reports to address the motion made on April 12, 2022, we believe that a more comprehensive consultation and planning process be undertaken to develop the new Housing Business Plan for 2023 and beyond.

While integrating the development of the new Plan with Administration's response to the motion may require a lengthier response time, it will be a better use of the Administration's time because it will avoid having to conduct consultation and research twice. Ensuring adequate time for consultation and strategic planning will help create a new Plan that is forward-looking, ambitious, and contains realistic targets that are bolstered by sufficient investments.

We look forward to working with the City in the development of a new Housing Business Plan that meets the needs of our City and supports the housing continuum so that we can retain Saskatoon's competitive advantage as an affordable place to live, work, and play.

Sincerely,



Cameron Choquette
Chief Executive Officer