

Janzen, Heather

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Stephnie Watson - Housing and Homelessness Funding - CK 750-4
Attachments: Watson Housing Letter.pdf

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

Sent: Thursday, November 24, 2022 8:19 PM

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

Subject: Email - Communication - Stephnie Watson - Housing and Homelessness Funding - CK 750-4

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Thursday, November 24, 2022 - 20:19

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

Date: Thursday, November 24, 2022

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Stephnie

Last Name: Watson

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Avenue K South

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: [REDACTED]

Subject: Housing and Homelessness Funding

Meeting (if known): City Budget Meeting Starting Nov 28, 2022

Comments:

To whom it may concern,
I would like to have submitted my letter for consideration in the agenda for the Budget meeting starting Nov 28, 2022.

Can you please let me know if and when it would be confirmed if it have been accepted for the agenda?

Thank you!

Attachments:

- [Watson Housing Letter.pdf](#)64.93 KB

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

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

It has come to my attention that the City of Saskatoon has fallen behind on funding levels for attainable housing and for other resources used to help those experiencing homelessness. Due to this lack of funding, it is my understanding that a couple of recommendations are being considered during the budget meeting starting on November 28, 2022.

The recommendations being considered are:

- 1) That a new mill rate contribution of \$100,000 and a capital contribution of \$300,000 toward the Saskatoon Attainable Housing Program.
- 2) That a new capital project of \$245,000 for the preparation of the new Housing Strategy.
- 3) That the Administration bring forward funding source options at the time this matter is at Budget deliberations

As a community member living here in Saskatoon, I would like to let you know I am in support of these recommendations because affordable and attainable housing is severely lacking. This is the minimum that the City of Saskatoon can do to start dealing with the housing crisis that we are currently in.

In addition to this, I would like the City of Saskatoon to consider what else they can do to deal with the current housing crisis. Too frequently we hear it is the province's responsibility, which though it is, we know they are not adequately addressing that responsibility and we can not continue to let our friends, family and community members suffer or die on the streets or in inadequate housing situations.

Therefore I would also like to see the City of Saskatoon introduce emergency measures that change the temperature response to opening of warm up spaces to 5 degree celsius as hypothermia can set in at these temperatures for people who are exposed to the elements for multiple hours.

I also ask the City to find funding in the budget to open more 24 hour warming areas in multiple locations around the city.

In addition, I would also ask the City to consider reviewing bylaws and policies to see where we can adjust them to help our community members survive on the street during weather events. This may include ways to provide outdoor spaces for people to set up their tents safely, an equivalent of a burning barrel that people who can't get into shelters can use to stay warm and dry.

I hope you will decide in favor of these recommendations and will also commit to further work needing to be done to secure sustainable and affordable housing for every person within

Saskatoon so that we are no longer losing fellow community members, family and friends to death from exposure as has happened in recent weeks and will continue to occur.

I would also like Council to consider these words when making decisions:

Homelessness is a policy choice, letting people freeze to death is a policy choice, letting people go without food is a policy choice.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Stephnie Watson MSc, EP
Pronouns: They/Them

Date: November 24, 2022

Postal Code: [REDACTED]