
From: Web NoReply
Sent: Monday, May 6, 2024 12:56 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Email - Communication - Cora Janzen - Housing Accelerator Fund – Incentives - CK 750-4 x 1860-1
Attachments: JH-SHALOS_HAFAffordIncentives_2024May06.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

--- Replies to this email will go to cora.janzen@saskhealthauthority.ca ---

Submitted on Monday, May 6, 2024 - 12:52

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Monday, May 06, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Cora

Last Name: Janzen

Email: cora.janzen@saskhealthauthority.ca

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: 101–310 Idylwyld Drive N Saskatoon, SK, S7L 0Z2

Ward: Ward 6

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Saskatchewan Health Authority - Population Health

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 7.2.3 Housing Accelerator Fund – Incentives

Comments:

Please find letter attached from one of the Area Lead – Public Health and Preventive Medicine and Medical Health Officer for Saskatoon

Attachments:

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



May 6, 2024

Members of the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services
Office of the City Clerk
222 – 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 0J5

Dear Members of the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services

We are writing to **express our support for the Administration’s proposal regarding the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) – Incentives Report**. Specifically, we believe that allocating the majority of HAF funding to incentive programs, particularly those supporting new affordable housing units, is a crucial step in addressing housing challenges.

Research consistently shows that housing plays a critical role in overall health and well-being. High-quality, affordable housing positively impacts health outcomes across various age groups. Here are some key pathways through which affordable housing contributes to better health:

Resource allocation combats basic needs insecurities: Affordable housing frees up household resources, allowing families to allocate funds for essentials such as food, utilities, and clothing.

Stability reduces stress: Housing stability positively affects mental health and reduces stress related to financial burdens. Knowing that one has a secure place to call home is essential for overall well-being.

Reduction in overcrowding: Affordable housing helps alleviate overcrowding, which, in turn, benefits mental health and reduces the risk of chronic and infectious diseases.

Promotes aging in place: Accessible housing enables older adults and people with mobility limitations to remain in their homes comfortably.

Saskatoon is experiencing demographic shifts that further emphasize the need for such a measure. Indigenous Identity percentages have grown in the past five years, ranging from 15.2% to 20.8% in certain areas. The 65+ age group has increased over the past decade, leading to higher usage of Emergency Departments and hospital admissions from this age group as well as among those precariously housed. Additionally, in 2021, approximately 11% of the Saskatoon Area lived in a low-income situation (using the low-income measure after-tax). Some areas within the city had even higher percentages, predisposing residents to even poorer health outcomes.

While zoning amendments and other city efforts within the HAF contribute to increasing housing supply, targeted incentives are essential. Purposeful investments can address specific housing needs, especially for vulnerable populations.

We encourage the Planning, Development and Community Services Committee, as well as City Council, to support this proposal forward.

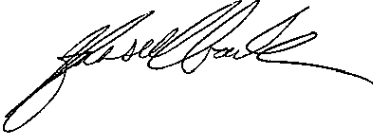
Healthy People, Healthy Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Health Authority works in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, acknowledging Saskatchewan as the traditional territory of First Nations and Métis People.

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Thank you for considering the health and equitable well-being of Saskatoon residents as you make this project decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jasmine Hasselback', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Jasmine Hasselback
MD, MPH, FRCPC
Area Lead – Public Health and Preventive Medicine
Medical Health Officer – Saskatoon