

Walter, Penny

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Mercy Harris - Housing Accelerator Fund - Permitting Up to Four Units in all Residential Zoning Districts – CK 750-1

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Sunday, May 26, 2024 6:54 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Mercy Harris - Housing Accelerator Fund - Permitting Up to Four Units in all Residential Zoning Districts – CK 750-1

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

Submitted on Sunday, May 26, 2024 - 18:54

Submitted by user: Anonymous

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: Sunday, May 26, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Mercy

Last Name: Harris

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:
Address: [REDACTED] Cumberland Ave S
Ward: Ward 6

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Municipal Planning Commission

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 7.7 Housing Accelerator Fund – Permitting Four Storeys Within the Transit Development Area [GPC2023-0503]

Comments:

Dear Planning Commission,

I am writing to SUPPORT the aspect of the Housing Accelerator Fund that would allow up to four storeys near transit corridors. As a renter who has experienced the difficulty in finding affordable housing that is located near transit and services, I believe that this is an important step forward.

Permitting four storey buildings along the transit areas that are being developed will allow more people to live near important services. Sometimes the needs of those without a personal vehicle -- students, those with modest incomes -- are overlooked. The development of the upcoming Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lines will improve the mobility of these people. However, the utility of the BRT lines will be greatly hampered if they're not accessible to a large number of people! People need to be based near the BRT lines in order to use them -- and without people using them, the success of BRT goals like alleviating congestion and reducing emissions will be limited. Allowing four storey buildings along the BRT lines seems like a common-sense step to make sure that people access and use these areas. These changes will allow more people to live in core neighbourhoods and go car-less. Many other cities have permitted increased housing density near transit lines, so this is a logical, tried-and-true approach.

Four storey buildings are already common along some streets in the city, such as Clarence Ave. and Main Street. These streets are vibrant residential areas, so I see no reason to believe that allowing taller buildings would harm the neighbourhoods that abut the transit corridors. After all, the transit corridors are being developed along existing major thoroughfares! Allowing taller buildings will simply allow more people to have easy access to transit services.

Thank you for considering my comments. Please remember that not everyone has the luxury of having a vehicle or funds to afford the housing that exists in the downtown or core neighbourhoods. We need to promote access to transit, services, and affordable housing. I believe this proposed change will help that happen.

Thank you,
Mercy Harris

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