

Walter, Penny

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Terry Olver - Greystone Community Association - Housing Accelerator Fund - CK 750-1

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 4:40 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Terry Olver - Greystone Community Association - Housing Accelerator Fund - CK 750-1

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

Submitted on Monday, May 27, 2024 - 16:40

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 27, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Terry

Last Name: Olver

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Kirk Cres

Ward: Ward 8

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: HAF meetings/May 28

Comments:

I am the current president of the Greystone Community Association. Our community consists of single-family dwellings, multi-unit dwellings, including multiple types of condo/apartment buildings. I have spoken with many people within my community and in neighbouring communities about the proposed changes brought on through the

housing accelerator fund – NONE so far are in support. Most community members were not aware of the proposed changes until they received a flyer from a concerned citizen. After finding out, many felt somewhat deceived and alienated by the city for not informing them directly and not having clear routes for communication to object to the proposed changes. Many voices are not being heard. We can have both more housing and good urban form – but that is not achieved with the proposed changes. Below, I have tried to summarize general themes of the discussions I have had/concerns I have listened to from community members, highlighting lack of consultation, lack of flexibility, environmental impact, and infrastructure capacity.

The housing accelerator fund proposes significant long-lasting and irreversible changes to residential communities but involves little or no consultation with residents from those communities. This is not in the spirit of democracy. The housing accelerator fund program is a one-size fits all plan, the success of which has not been tested. It is being initiated to get federal funds, not to strengthen our communities. The city needs to slow down this process (particularly rezoning in corridor and surrounding areas) and engage in more direct/accessible public consultation with affected communities. By slowing down and incorporating stakeholder feedback from communities/citizens, the success/failures of similar changes happening in cities elsewhere can be evaluated and the plan can be adjusted accordingly. Further, by integrating feedback from relevant stakeholders, the plan can be further tailored to meet the unique desires/needs of each community. For example, some of the proposed changes will involve the destruction of vital green spaces, trees, neighbourhood parks and urban ecosystems. These changes are irreversible and the impacts of these changes on the overall health of the community are not being considered. Before we destroy our environmental spaces, perhaps we should see first how destroying them affects community health in other cities, and we should also ask residents whether these environmental spaces are vital for recreation and foster a stronger community. At the same time, these changes will bring about increases in population density with no clear plan for address the environmental impact by replacing or increasing recreational green space, trees and parks which are vital for physical and mental health. There is also no clear plan for providing the necessary infrastructure support (i.e., schools, hospitals, roads, sewers, parking etc...). Over the last several months we have experienced our hospital emergency rooms closed in part due to density, our schools closed in part due to classroom sizes and associated complexities, residential flooding etc... Adding density in these areas without the proper infrastructure in place, while removing environmental green spaces, will compound these problems. Given there are many alternative approaches to increase affordable housing while maintaining good urban form that the municipal planning commission has not considered, and this approach is not tailored in any way to the needs of our community, the need to change zoning is premature. There is NO rush, and we only stand to gain perspective and support by slowing this down and making more environmentally and community-informed decisions. To optimize successful changes, major questions concerning land use (loss of parks, trees, green spaces, etc.), key infrastructure, resources/services, and community feedback should be addressed, and solutions should be in place, before any rezoning is permitted. The proposed changes serve planners, but not communities.

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