

Walter, Penny

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Dr Jasmine Hasselback - Saskatoon Medical Health Officer - Housing Accelerator Fund Corridor Land Use Amendments - CK 750-1
Attachments: SK-SHALOS_HAF_TDA_2024June17.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2024 11:07 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Dr Jasmine Hasselback - Saskatoon Medical Health Officer - Housing Accelerator Fund Corridor Land Use Amendments - CK 750-1

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

Submitted on Monday, June 17, 2024 - 11:04

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, June 17, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Cora

Last Name: Janzen

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Idylwyld Drive N Saskatoon, SK, [REDACTED]

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):: Corridor Land Use Amendments Public Hearing of City Council

Comments:

Please see attached letter from Dr. Jasmine Hasselback, Area Lead for Public Health and Preventive Medicine and Saskatoon Medical Health Officer.

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



Office of the Medical Health Officers
Idylwyld Centre
204 - 310 Idylwyld Drive North
SASKATOON SK S7L 0Z2
P: 306-655-4338 | F: 306-655-4414

June 17, 2024

His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
Office of the City Clerk
222 – 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 0J5

Dear His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council,

We are writing to express our support of the zoning regulation changes being proposed through the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF). Specifically, to allow multiple unit development within 800 metres of a planned bus transit station with appropriate development standards and servicing capacity, and four storey developments within the Transit Development Area (TDA).

It is well documented that decisions made at the municipal level carry the potential to improve or worsen the health and well-being of the community's residents. Increasing density improves our physical and mental health, and keeps our environment healthy by increasing activity levels, promoting social connectedness, and reducing emissions and our ecological footprint.

In 2016, the former Saskatoon Health Region collaborated with Upstream to do a Health Equity Impact Assessment (HEIA) of the City of Saskatoon's Growth Plan, and made recommendations regarding corridor growth and transit. The efforts being proposed through the HAF are weaving in several of these HEIA recommendations.

Encourage development along bus rapid routes that improves the availability of services like grocery stores, community gathering places, and employment centres.

Ensure that infill due to corridor growth contains a mix housing types, with a deliberate emphasis on affordable owner-occupied and rental units.

Reduce policy barriers to developing affordable infill housing, and incentivize developers into providing safe, affordable, and quality housing in corridor growth areas.

Increased density and access to transit leads to creating compact and connected communities and provides many benefits to community health and well-being. To name a few, this presents an opportunity to:

- Improve housing stock, quality, including affordable housing
- Improve access to amenities such as food, employment, social supports, and more
- Enable densification, along with improved access to transit, helps to support multi-modal transportation options other than personal vehicle use. This will help prevent chronic disease and enhance quality of life, along with providing accessible and affordable options for those who cannot afford to own, operate, and maintain a personal vehicle

- Implement climate impact mitigation strategies through increasing usage of transit, reducing emissions, and improving air quality. This has positive impacts on preventing chronic disease as well as preserves natural environments that would be lost to sprawl and injurious effects from pollution
- Deflect potential future tax increases due to continued unchecked urban sprawl and also due to density creating more affordable housing as the land is shared between multiple residences or other uses rather than a single family home
- Increase the opportunities for social connectedness which lead to increased life expectancy, less feelings of isolation, a sense of community, and lower rates of crime and violence

With the proposed four storey development options, along with mixed housing and land use approaches, this would be a gentle approach to increasing density within the TDA and has been demonstrated to support health and well-being in numerous jurisdictions.

We do recognize the potential downsides to increasing density and development within TDA, such as a larger number of people living in a smaller area can result in tension or stress from ambient noise and differing preferences among neighbours. However, there are ways to mitigate those potential negative impacts.

Several times, Saskatoon has been a leader with decisions that support good health in the population. A few key examples are the City's approval of a forward thinking Growth Plan as well as the recent approval of Administration's proposal regarding the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) – Incentives Report. This continues to position the city for creating a healthier city and promoting health through the urban form.

Thank you for considering the community's health and well-being as you make this policy decision.

Sincerely,



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

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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