

Walter, Penny

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Don Ravis - Housing Accelerator Fund – CK 750-1

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Sunday, June 23, 2024 7:55 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Don Ravis - Housing Accelerator Fund – CK 750-1

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

Submitted on Sunday, June 23, 2024 - 19:54

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: Sunday, June 23, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name: Don

Last Name: Ravis

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: NA

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Lake Cres

Ward: Ward 6

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Special Meeting of Council June 27th

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: All agenda item pertaining to HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND

Comments:

After reading the mayor's recent HAF update I want to begin by commenting on three matters:

1. Governance issue involving the process.

To quote the mayor " there was very little time for the community to be consulted or to digest these proposals" and " staff barely had time to develop the proposals" These statements indicate that the process for this profound change in the city's density is seriously flawed and is being rushed without residents understanding and participating in what is about to occur. How can council wipe 120 years of zoning history without being transparent to the citizens you serve? The push back will be severe both at your June 27th meeting and the upcoming civic election.

2. The HAF proposal is a made in Ottawa Housing Solution. The very soul of our city is up for grabs based on cash which unfortunately will not resolve our homeless problem. Saskatoon is a city where affordable housing is still available. Not so in many metropolitan cities that bought into the prescriptive federal proposal.

My suggestion is have administration do further due diligent on all possible options with vacant federal and provincial lands including vacant city owned lot. There is also university lands proposed for development which meets the federal governments criteria. What about City of Saskatoon owned land for residential development or explore office conversion. We are unique in Canada in respect to civic owned land so why not use it.

To avoid a disaster in our city both politically and operationally we must find a SASKATOON SOLUTION in order to prevent a major upheaval in our community.

3. The political process and up coming civic election.

HAF is already becoming an election issue which will distort debate and detract from many other critical issues facing Saskatoon. Depending on the outcome of the civic election there could be 6 members of the current council not present after the election. Is that fair and reasonable to a new council and the electorate? Could this lead to new council cancelling a deal with Ottawa?

4. Politics and Housing

The housing shortage is a major political issue in the nations parliament and is now spreading to municipalities across the country. Some cities like Halifax and London have modified their density requirements while Oakville gave their money back because the mayor stated he wants to keep that city liveable. Calgary is converting some office space to residential so why can't Saskatoon negotiate criteria that fits a prairie city.

In conclusion, it will take courage and backbone to negotiate a revision with Ottawa but we live here and we know what kind a future we want to plan for.

Don Ravis.

Former employer at CMHC, CITY OF SASKATOON PLANNING DEPARTMENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS HABITAT FOT HUMANITY and Member of Parliament.

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