

Walter, Penny

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Sherry Olson - Climate Justice Saskatoon - Housing Accelerator Fund - CK 750-1
Attachments: CJS HAF Support Letter (1).pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Sunday, June 23, 2024 9:40 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Sherry Olson - Climate Justice Saskatoon - Housing Accelerator Fund - CK 750-1

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

Submitted on Sunday, June 23, 2024 - 17:56

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: Sherry

Last Name: Olson

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Main St

Ward: Ward 6

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Climate Justice Saskatoon

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: City Council Public Hearing - Amendment Package 2 - June 27

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

Comments:

Please see attached.

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



June 23, 2024

Saskatoon City Council
222 3rd Ave North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

Dear Mayor Clark and Councillors,

In May 2023, the Saskatoon City Council took a significant step towards addressing housing challenges by unanimously approving the city's application for the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF). The initiatives that resulted are a proactive strategy to foster sustainable urban development, support climate action, and enhance the environmental quality of Saskatoon. The initiatives, particularly the zoning amendments and bylaw adjustments, align with the city's long-term environmental goals and underscore a commitment to a greener, more resilient Saskatoon.

Positive Impacts on Climate and the Environment:

1. Encouraging Sustainable Urban Density:

- The approval of 4-storey developments as-of-right along BRT routes and the city-wide allowance of up to 4-unit dwellings on 50' lots are pivotal in promoting higher-density living. Higher density reduces the spread of urban sprawl, preserving natural landscapes and reducing the environmental impact associated with expansive suburban development. Compact, multi-unit housing means more people can live close to urban amenities and services, reducing the need for long commutes and lowering transportation emissions. An excellent example would be using the Housing Accelerator Fund to fund cooperative housing, which fosters and enhances neighborhoods while providing high density living for families.

2. Advancing Public Transit and Reducing Carbon Footprint:

- The plan's focus on building within 800 meters of planned BRT stations is strategic for boosting public transit usage. Convenient access to reliable transit encourages residents to opt for public transportation over private vehicles. This shift can lead to a substantial decrease in greenhouse gas

emissions and traffic congestion, fostering a cleaner and more breathable urban environment. Moreover, aligning housing development with BRT routes integrates residential and transportation planning, creating a more sustainable urban framework.

3. Minimizing Land and Resource Consumption:

- By removing parking minimums for new residential constructions, the city supports a reduction in paved surfaces dedicated to parking. This policy encourages alternative transportation modes and infrastructure, such as cycling and walking, and reduces the urban heat island effect caused by extensive asphalt coverage. Additionally, it allows for more efficient use of urban land, conserving resources and minimizing the environmental footprint of new developments.

4. Enhancing Green Spaces and Urban Biodiversity:

- Despite concerns from some residents, the proposed developments will not encroach on existing parks and green spaces. Instead, the set-back and site coverage requirements ensure that new projects include green areas, potentially creating more greenery within urban lots. This increase in green space can improve urban biodiversity, offer better stormwater management, and contribute to the overall aesthetic and environmental quality of neighborhoods.

5. Supporting Energy-Efficient Housing:

- The development of new housing units, particularly in the form of multi-family and townhome structures, provides an opportunity to incorporate modern, net-zero, energy-efficient building practices. These new homes can be designed to meet higher energy performance standards, reducing the carbon footprint of the housing sector. Implementing energy-efficient technologies and materials in these developments can significantly lower energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

6. Reducing Waste and Promoting Sustainable Construction:

- The city's initiatives encourage the redevelopment of underutilized and vacant lots, reducing the need for new land development and conserving natural areas. Redeveloping existing urban areas limits the expansion into greenfield sites, which helps preserve ecosystems and agricultural land. Furthermore, modern construction techniques for infill projects can focus on sustainable practices, including recycling materials, using eco-friendly resources, and minimizing construction waste.

Additionally, by approving the proposed initiatives under the Housing Accelerator Fund, Saskatoon stands to gain over 40 million in funding dedicated to social housing projects,

crucial for supporting the city's most vulnerable populations. The integration of sustainable, dense, and energy-efficient housing into the city's urban fabric not only addresses the immediate housing crisis but also aligns with Saskatoon's long-term environmental and climate goals.

The initiatives will drive the city towards a future where growth is balanced with sustainability, where economic development coexists with environmental stewardship, and where residents benefit from improved quality of life and healthier, greener neighborhoods. Rejecting these amendments would not only slow down progress on addressing the housing crisis but also hinder Saskatoon's ability to implement sustainable development practices that are crucial for its environmental and economic future. Embracing these changes is essential for fostering a resilient Saskatoon, ready to meet the challenges of climate change and urbanization head-on.

Thank you,

Climate Justice Saskatoon