

Walter, Penny

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Glenn Wright - Housing Accelerator Fund - CK 750-1

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 1:55 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Glenn Wright - Housing Accelerator Fund - CK 750-1

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

Submitted on Monday, June 24, 2024 - 13:54

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: Monday, June 24, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Glenn

Last Name: Wright

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: Yes

Address: Box [REDACTED]

Neighbourhood: [Downtown Core](#)

City: Vanscoy

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: [REDACTED]

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: June 27, 2024 Special Meeting - City Council Public Hearing - To consider reports regarding the Housing Accelerator Fund

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 4.1 Housing Accelerator Fund

Comments:

I am writing to support the zoning changes to accommodate the Housing Accelerator Fund and to support the Bus Rapid Transit initiative.

Although I am no longer a resident of Saskatoon, I grew up in the Mount Royal neighbourhood and I continue to commute to Saskatoon daily and spend much of my time downtown, or in other neighbourhoods such as Eastview, the North Industrial, and Varsity View/the U of S management areas. I care about Saskatoon and the development of the city and anticipate that I will be moving back to the city at later stages in my life. I want to move back to a city that has affordable housing, with great public transit, with many neighbourhoods that foster active personal transportation, and model sustainable development as the city grows.

As someone who has observed Saskatoon from the mid-1980s to present, I am troubled by the growing homelessness and the perpetual commitment to growth of the “car culture” that pervades our society. I worry that the growth of the city and recent development is not sustainable because of the low population density, the growing urban sprawl, and the lack of walkable communities with good cycling infrastructure and access to high quality public transportation. This needs to change. I also see many residents making arguments about “the others” as if homeless people are somehow not our fellow citizens. Often these same residents are quick to say, “not in my backyard.”

The pace of change is only growing. I believe change is inevitable and I want to see municipal leaders have the courage to make meaningful changes to support the HAF and the BRT. Without proactive management to make public transportation better and to increase access to housing, we will continue to observe changes in the wrong direction – driving increased homelessness, more car culture with the attendant pollution, excessive commute times, and expensive civil infrastructure (which often paves over sensitive habitat like the northeast swale).

My kids all live in the city of Saskatoon. Most of them use public transportation regularly. None of them desire owning their own personal automobile. Most of them would prefer more options to support cycling (such as separation from motor vehicle traffic and secure bike storage options). My kids also need access to affordable housing, just as I will when I hopefully can retire to the city in the future. For these reasons, supporting the BRT and HAF initiatives makes a lot of sense to me.

We all want a safe city, with safe transit, and housing for all. No one should be without shelter (or a home) in our city, particularly in the winter. We should strive to make every community safe and sustainable. This starts with a housing for all strategy. The objectives of the HAF and the necessary zoning changes for Saskatoon are sensible, reasonable, and should be endorsed by council unanimously. We need leaders with principles, not leaders who succumb to the NIMBY attitudes who would alienate “the others.” I therefore urge the administration to support the HAF and BRT going forward.

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