

**Janzen, Heather**

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**From:** City Council  
**Subject:** FW: Email - Communication - Jory Vermette - Housing Accelerator Fund - CK 750-1  
**Attachments:** JoryVermette HAF Letter.pdf

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**From:** Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2024 4:33 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>  
**Subject:** Email - Communication - Jory Vermette - Housing Accelerator Fund - CK 750-1

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

Submitted on Monday, June 24, 2024 - 16:25

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:** Jory

**Last Name:** Vermette

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**

**Address:** [REDACTED] Churchill Dr

**Ward:** Ward 5

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

**What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known)::** PUBLIC HEARING SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** 4.1 HOUSING ACCELERATOR FUND

**Comments:**

Please see my attached personal letter, thank you

**Attachments:**

- [JoryVermette HAF Letter.pdf](#)46.63 KB

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

June 24, 2024

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

Dear Mayor Clark and Councillors,

As a resident of Saskatoon, I would like to express my personal support for the items regarding the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) for the upcoming public hearing special meeting of city council, dated for Thursday, June 27th, 2024.

I would like to note the following points which are critical to ensure the effective use of funds to combat the crisis at hand. These points provide an essential climatic lens that prepares all of us for a future that is resilient to climate change and provides sustainability and prosperity for all. The HAF is not the final step, or the only step, in making Saskatoon a community that can thrive and ready itself for the future but, it is a very necessary step in moving in the correct direction. Council has an opportunity and responsibility to set a foundation that can be worked on to achieve their goals, particularly their net-zero by 2050 goal. Urban planning, land use and housing play critical roles in achieving this, as the city has significant jurisdictional capabilities that will allow them to influence this sector compared to other necessary but more difficult sectors to impact directly. I sincerely hope that city council will take the appropriate measures now to ensure a better future for all of us. Please see the following points below:

First, it is necessary that this funding be used to ensure that those who need homes the most have access to them. Undoubtedly, we live in a world where housing is a commodity - a stock that can be manipulated and traded on the market, regardless of who is housed or who isn't. This needs to be rectified to ensure that the newly built housing stock does not get manipulated by strictly for-profit interests. By implementing strong bylaws and regulations that ensure these new multi-unit dwellings are made affordable and accessible to those who need them, the city can take a powerful first step in ensuring housing becomes what it is intended to be, a place for people to reside in, raise their families, build their futures and partake in the community. An example of this would be promoting cooperative housing or incentivizing public housing builds. A strong push will be made by interest groups within our city and province to put profits at the forefront of these new homes. It would be essential for the city to counteract this and give folks whose voices are often ignored an opportunity to have a place to call home.

Second, from a climate point of view, density and rapid transit - both pillars of the city's plans to obtain HAF funding - are essential to push back on what has effectively been decades of car-centric transportation and infrastructure, urban sprawl, increased GHG emissions and environmental degradation. By building high density buildings the city is taking agency in reducing their GHG emissions, preventing urban sprawl means less damage to wetlands, prairie and swale, as well reduced emissions from transit and construction. However, it should be noted that building high density is only one portion of the total effort. To have an effective emissions reduction in tandem with high density building it is essential to include rapid, reliable and safe

public transportation, alternative transportation infrastructure whether for biking, scootering or walking, increased available amenities within walking or public transport distance such as walk-ins, supermarkets, parks, schools and libraries, and also, the incorporation of green spaces such as parks, prairie pollinator gardens, food forests and community gardens.

Finally, there is an important element to highlight when it comes to the HAF and addressing the housing crisis. Often we perceive these areas and issues: housing, healthcare, addictions, climate change, truth and reconciliation, conservation, etc. as siloed away from one another, somewhat related but never overlapping. In reality, this is not the case. These areas and issues are inherently and deeply interconnected. For too long, from the international to the local level, decision makers both in the private and public sectors have attempted to address crises and issues by treating them as unrelated. Now is the time to buck this trend more than ever. As we experience what is known as a polycrisis - multiple, simultaneous crises that are strongly interdependent - it is absolutely essential for both administration, city council and private and non-profit stakeholders to address this polycrisis with a framework backed by action that is rooted in the inherent interconnectedness of these issues. Housing ties into the climate crisis and vice versa, therefore it would be of the city's utmost responsibility, and in all stakeholders best interests, to establish strategies for housing that involve the incorporation of net-zero building standards and climate mitigation and adaptation infrastructure (e.g. solar panels, green spaces, storm drains, etc). This will ensure that, as a community, we are able to prepare and plan for the outcome we desire and need, not continuously reacting to every crisis as it unfolds. I reiterate again that now is the time to not only shift our conceptualization of the polycrisis but to start implementing tangible and material changes to address it today.

I sincerely hope that council takes the necessary steps to obtain HAF funding and furthermore, takes the essential steps in ensuring that the \$40 million dollars in funding is spent in a way that safeguards the future and prepares us for 2050. With the climate crisis getting increasingly worse, we have sparse time to act effectively, the HAF is an opportunity to obtain funding and utilize it towards a more resilient and safer future for everyone.

Sincerely,

Jory Vermette

Ward 5