

Walter, Penny

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Request to Speak - Michelle MacDonlad - Housing Accelerator Fund - CK 750-1
Attachments: HAF letter June 27th 2024.docx

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 2:11 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Request to Speak - Michelle MacDonlad - Housing Accelerator Fund - CK 750-1

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

Submitted on Monday, June 24, 2024 - 14:00

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: She/her/hers

First Name: Michelle

Last Name: MacDonald

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: [REDACTED]

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Melrose Ave

Ward: Ward 6

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Hearthside Commons

What do you wish to do ?: Request to Speak

If speaking will you be attending in person or remotely: In person

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

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

Comments:

Looking forward to speaking in support of the proposed changes regarding the Housing Accelerator Fund

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

To the Mayor & Councillors of Saskatoon,

I am writing on behalf of Hearthside Commons, a group developing a co-housing community in Saskatoon. We enthusiastically support the proposed changes outlined in Saskatoon's Housing Accelerator Fund Action Plan for the reasons outlined below. Overall, these changes will benefit both us as property owners and the city as a whole.

Firstly, our project is "middle housing" – co-housing offers residents access to amenities typically found in single family dwellings while keeping individual units closer in size and feel to apartments. While we do not expect every new development that comes out of these changes to look like ours, we hope to demonstrate an attractive option for future development in these areas. We also hope to demonstrate to other property owners that it is possible to create the type of housing that works best for individuals, rather than relying on large developers to steer housing development.

Secondly, encouraging density along BRT routes will reduce Saskatoon's dependence on cars, making the city more people-friendly. Incentivizing transit over personal automobiles will ensure that Saskatoon has a safe & vibrant transit network. A vibrant transit network ensures equitable access to essential services for all Saskatoon residents – nobody benefits when Saskatonians are disconnected from large swaths of their city simply because there is not an accessible way for them to go there. Our project was particularly drawn to this area for that exact reason, as we want to take advantage of public transportation and non-vehicle options wherever possible. This is also why we support the removal of minimum parking requirements – we would much rather see our property be used for our use and enjoyment rather than being used to store a vehicle that is rarely used.

Thirdly, allowing multi-unit dwellings within 800 meters of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) routes will enable us to densify our properties without the time-consuming and expensive rezoning process. Removing these development barriers will be beneficial to everyone, as it allows for an efficient way to encourage density and diverse home types in the area.

Fourth, The federal government has made a significant amount of money available to cities to make these changes. It would be an irresponsible fiscal decision of council to turn away this money. We understand that there may be vocal opposition to these changes, however we urge you to make these changes that will benefit all Saskatoon residents, even if there is some trepidation to make significant changes to how we build our city.

Finally, with housing prices steadily increasing, boosting the supply of all types of housing is crucial to ensuring that all residents have access to affordable and appropriate housing. Having lived in Saskatoon for most of my life, it is heartbreaking to see people moving away or choosing not to live here due to housing affordability issues. Our co-housing project is a way for us to be part of building the type of city we wish to live in, and to foster the type of positive community Saskatoon is known for.

For these reasons, we ask you to continue to act boldly in the best interests of all Saskatoon residents. Thank you for your time and consideration.