

Walter, Penny

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Elaine M Will - Housing Accelerator Fund and Corridor Residential Proposal - CK 750-1

From: Elaine Will [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 3:01 PM
To: Web E-mail - Zoning Bylaw Review <zoningbylaw@Saskatoon.ca>
Cc: Block, Cynthia (City Councillor) <Cynthia.Block@Saskatoon.ca>; Web E-mail - Mayor's Office <Mayors.Office@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Re: Saskatoon, the Housing Accelerator Fund and Corridor Residential proposal

Dear City of Saskatoon, Mayor Charlie Clark, and Cynthia Block:

I am a resident of the Haultain neighbourhood, writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the city's residential housing permits.

I see that all off-street parking requirements for new builds have already been removed, and I am extremely disappointed and angered that residents were not notified of this, nor given a chance to voice our concerns. Parking is already at a premium in my neighbourhood, as every family seems to have at least two vehicles, but will now be given no choice but to park on the street. This problem will only be worsened by increased housing density.

I understand the reasoning behind this decision, as City Council believes the planned Transit Development and Light Rapid Transit system will encourage more residents to use public transit rather than owning a vehicle. To be clear, I personally do not enjoy driving and would make more use of public transit if it were faster and covered more ground. However, Saskatoon is set up in such a way that still requires a vehicle to get around, and has been so for the better part of the last century. You simply cannot undo what is already in place. It will take decades, and millions, if not billions, in municipal funding for expansion of the LRT system before this vehicle-free utopia becomes a reality. This feels like putting the cart before the horse. You cannot remove virtually all parking without first addressing the systemic problems behind the need for more parking.

Furthermore, the existing development of infill properties with only two dwelling units per build has already put enormous strain on the city's infrastructure. Before the water lines on my street were finally replaced three years ago, we had had four water main breaks in one month the previous winter. Are you absolutely sure that these new lines can handle four dwellings per build? To say nothing of multiple areas where the water lines have not yet been replaced?

Much like the downtown arena, this decision is extremely shortsighted and is being made without regard to all sides of the issue. I hope that the city does not go forward with it.

Sincerely,

- Elaine M. Will

[REDACTED] 7th St E.

Saskatoon [REDACTED]