

Janzen, Heather

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

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 3:45 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 saskatoonclimatehub@gmail.com ---

Submitted on Monday, June 24, 2024 - 15:41

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: saskatoonclimatehub@gmail.com

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Churchill Dr

Ward: Ward 5

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

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

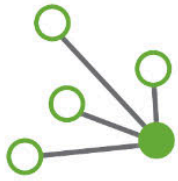
Comments:

Please see the attached letter, thank you

Attachments:

- [HAF SCH Support Letter.pdf](#)133.28 KB

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



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June 24, 2024

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

Dear Mayor Clark and Councillors,

The Saskatoon Climate Hub (SCH) would like to express our support for items regarding the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) for the upcoming public hearing special meeting of city council, dated for Thursday, June 27th, 2024.

We would like to note the following benefits associated with additional funding from the HAF if used effectively with community, environment and dedicated planning at its core:

1. **Reduction of urban sprawl by focusing on higher density units within the city rather than expanding outward into further suburbs.** This reduces environmental impact and takes stress off of continued land use and pressure on biodiverse regions around the city. In addition, it reduces the continued expansion of car-centric infrastructure that adds to the city's emissions profile. It also promotes necessary multi-family units as well as dynamic living arrangements that allows for community involvement and strengthening, in the forms of cooperative housing projects or community spaces such as parks and libraries.
2. When high density living is done correctly, the community will also see benefits regarding **opportunities for transportation and increased modes of mobility.** To serve residents in core neighbourhoods affected by HAF-related changes, the city should enhance public transportation by incorporating the BRT and expanding cycling and walking infrastructure. These alternative transport options, when provided in a consistent, reliable, and safe manner, reduce car traffic, pollution, street congestion, and GHG emissions, while enhancing safety for pedestrians and neighborhoods.

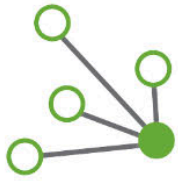


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3. The changes associated with the HAF also **allow for the preservation of city greenspaces such as trees and parks**. To ensure developers do not take a step in dismantling our green spaces, the city should incorporate bylaws and rules regarding green spaces. A regulatory environment around the preservation of existing trees and tree canopies, as well as the development of green spaces around high density homes that incorporate space such as gardens or prairie pollinator flower beds, should be at the core of future HAF developments. Green spaces come with numerous benefits associated with mental, physical and community health, carbon sinks for GHG emissions, increased biodiversity in the form of pollinators and also can be used for recreation and community events.
4. The HAF also offers **affordable housing for residents**. This is a critical component of ensuring the funds from the HAF are used effectively. A severe housing crisis is currently happening in our province and across the country. The HAF offers Saskatoon funding which can be used to build housing that supports our most vulnerable population and prevents people from falling into unhoused situations. Projects by developers and the city should work to ensure those who need housing the most get access to it, in an affordable, safe and high quality home. Ensuring accessible housing means focusing more on just the profitability of a lot but also, focusing on community, environment, and standard of living. More people in homes means stronger communities, taking pressure off our much underfunded social services and increased equity for residents.
5. The HAF can allow for communities to integrate and incentivize **increased amenities in core neighborhoods**. A vibrant community where residents can easily access basic amenities—such as libraries, parks, schools, small businesses, and supermarkets—without having to travel long distances, spend excessive time, or face major financial barriers. Having basic amenities be a part of our community and neighbourhood planning allows residents the ability to meet their needs without unnecessary fiscal or time based restraints.

The city has an opportunity to seize important funds to begin addressing our housing crisis. Given the difficult deliberations during last fall's budget discussions, it would seem wise to acquire funds that are available for our city before they are no longer available. Incorporating HAF funding is one step, but it is also critical that the city use these funds effectively with residents, communities, sustainability and climate in mind. To both prepare and adapt to climate change the city will need to begin a process of improving and adapting our neighbourhoods for the future we are aspiring for and the HAF is a critical step forward in obtaining the finances to do so.



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We hope the city proceeds with the necessary changes to obtain HAF funding but does so by incorporating the various points we have addressed above to ensure that all residents of Saskatoon get the benefits from these changes and that a few do not line their pockets to the detriment of what is a community based initiative.

Sincerely,

Jory Vermette on behalf of the Saskatoon Climate Hub