

Walter, Penny

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Jessica Olver - Housing Accelerator Fund and Proposed Bylaw Changes - CK 750-1
Attachments: Public Hearing June 27.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 10:26 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Jessica Olver - Housing Accelerator Fund and Proposed Bylaw Changes - CK 750-1

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

Submitted on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 - 22:25

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: Wednesday, June 19, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Jessica

Last Name: Olver

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] Kirk Cres

Ward: Ward 8

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

Comments:

Please see attached letter (pdf)

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

Hello,

Recently I spoke at planning, development and community services committee meeting about my apprehensions and concerns regarding the current Housing Accelerator Fund plan and proposed bylaw changes. I was asked by Councillor Block what I felt like a good compromise would be. I would like to thank Ms. Block for the question, as I believe it was truly in the spirit of collaboration. I would like to elaborate further on my answer to her question.

On the surface, I think a compromise is to vote no to permitting 4-storey residential development within 800 meters of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and vote yes to permitting up to four dwelling units per site in all residential zoning districts. But the truth is, there are better compromises and more creative solutions that will increase affordable housing, densify Saskatoon and allow us to maintain the integrity of our city. This goal could be achieved by opening a meaningful and productive dialogue with community leaders and residents of this city; by conducting sufficient research into the infrastructure needed, and by thoroughly investigating the manner in which Saskatoon specifically would need prepare for this increased density (we are not the same as other cities). It is my belief that this goal will not be achieved by the current plan, which was created with haste and will relinquish decision making for our city to the federal government and developers who have little interest in what is best for Saskatoon.

A thoughtful and well-developed plan that increases attainable and affordable housing and specifically increases housing availability in the 'missing middle' category is possible. However, we must safeguard our neighbourhoods and the infrastructure that supports them. The current HAF proposal is a one-size fits all plan focused solely on rezoning at a breakneck pace and it overlooks due process. It has been rejected, by many cities across Canada, similar in size to Saskatoon, such as Oakville ON, Windsor ON, Halifax NS, and more. Like these cities, Saskatoon has unique needs that require careful consideration and informed planning in order for the city to thrive and grow.

I am confident that we can find a compromise that will limit the proposed zoning intrusion into residential neighborhoods, specifically the zoning of four story units within 800m of the BRT and thoughtfully increase population density. Instead of taking a "blanket rezoning" approach the City should continue to work with citizens and community leaders to transparently, strategically and proactively identify sites for adding density to every community in the city. Yes, that includes upscale neighborhoods too. However, zoning for the HAF plan should be determined on a case-by-case basis. Due process must involve an open dialogue and require informed consent and approval of citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jessica Olver