

Walter, Penny

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Hermes Chung - Housing Accelerator Fund - CK 750-1

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Saturday, June 22, 2024 6:17 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Hermes Chung - Housing Accelerator Fund - CK 750-1

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

Submitted on Saturday, June 22, 2024 - 17:46

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: Saturday, June 22, 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Hermes

Last Name: Chung

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Haight Cres

Ward: Ward 8

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Momentum Committee, Planning Students' Association, University of Saskatchewan

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: June 27, 2024 Public Hearing Special Meeting

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

Comments:

Dear City Council,

I recently learned that the City is proposing changes to zoning bylaws that would allow:

- Up to four units of housing on any 50ft residential property city-wide
- Up to four-storey housing in areas close to transit corridors across the city
- Up to six-storey housing on transit corridors and near transit stations

I understand that these changes are being proposed in order to:

- Speed up the creation of more housing units
- Make it possible to create more housing in existing neighborhoods
- Ensure Saskatoon qualifies for the Federal Housing Accelerator Fund, which the City will use to help build more affordable housing units

Saskatoon has always been a city that attracts many post-secondary students and young professionals from all over Saskatchewan and across the globe. With housing affordability as one of the main attractions, people are considering Saskatoon as a destination at an unprecedented rate. If we continue with business as usual, we will not be able to avoid the sprawl of our urban footprint, which in turn, adds financial pressure in providing infrastructure and eventually takes country residentials and farmlands out of the famous Saskatchewan landscape.

Now, Saskatoon is presented with a once-in-a-century opportunity to boost its housing density and supply with the federal HAF, transforming our city with better utilization of our developed lands and greenfield developments.

The proposed changes will keep Saskatoon as an affordability stronghold in Canada amid this nationwide housing crisis.

The City of Calgary was once famous for its affordability and attracted many inter-provincial migrants, specifically from the two biggest metro areas: Toronto and Metro Vancouver. In addition to the record-high number of immigrants that have chosen Calgary as their first place of landing, housing prices and suburban sprawl development have been skyrocketing at an unprecedented pace. We must carefully examine the trend of potential spillover from Calgary and Edmonton as the two Albertan cities become increasingly unaffordable. It is always important for Saskatoon to prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

Changes in these zoning regulations will enable the densification and optimization of land use. Hence, I support the proposed changes and ask that City Council vote in favor of them on June 27. These changes will help combat the housing crisis in our community and make it easier for families and neighbors to find better, more affordable housing.

Respectfully submitted,
Hermes C. Chung

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