

Walter, Penny

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Adam Keith - Housing Accelerator Fund - CK 750-1

From: A K [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 10:01 AM
To: Web E-mail - City Clerks <City.Clerks@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Adam Keith - Housing Accelerator Fund - CK 750-1

My address is [REDACTED] Hoeschen Crescent.

Thanks,
Adam

From: A K [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 24, 2024 4:20 AM
To: Councillor's Office <Councillors.Office@saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Housing Accelerator Fund

Good Morning Council,

In particular my Ward 6 councillor, Cynthia Block,

Recently I have been very concerned with Saskatoon's plan to make sweeping and irrecoverable zoning changes to large portions of the established core and mature neighborhoods. As a Civil Engineer with a background in transportation and back in University a number of Urban Planning courses, I understand the importance of increasing density from economic and social perspectives. I for one do not want to live in a city one day like Calgary, where urban sprawl is out of control, and it takes an hour to get from one part of the city to another. This is one reason among many that I have chosen to make Saskatoon my home. My wife and I recently spent almost our entire life savings on a down payment on a house located on a quiet street near Market Mall in the Holliston Neighborhood. We chose to live on this street for a number of reasons:

- Saskatoon's Urban forest is beautiful, living in a developed neighborhood provides green canopies over the streets that we so enjoy!
- The lot that has the house we bought is very large, which allows myself in particular to enjoy quiet outdoor time in the garden or doing yardwork. Growing up on a farm, having a wonderful and large backyard was a must.
- Our neighborhood is all built out of bungalows. Our neighbors are not able to look out their window and see us in our backyard giving us incredible privacy and not feel like we are outside in a bubble.
- Our house has ample space between us and our neighbors.

The above reasons are only a few from a long list of reasons we chose Holliston. In particular, this is the same list of reasons we did not purchase in new neighborhoods like Stonebridge and Brighton. I can tell you for certain we are not the only ones. About a year before we moved in, our neighbors 3 doors down, also a young couple in their 20s, purchased for these reasons. In the last year two other homes purchased by couples in their late 20s also purchased for these reasons. In the next 5-10

years at least half the homes on my block will likely turn over to similar couples in their 20s, looking to begin their lives and start families in their first home.

In recent weeks, I have read more and more about the plans to rezone. The thought of the above list of reasons for living in Holliston being no longer applicable is devastating. The thought of neighboring a multi story apartment building instead of bungalows and potentially lowering the value of my home and stealing equity from my family and future is hard to recon with. If the plan to rezone goes forward, I can unequivocally say that my wife and I will strongly consider moving before the damage to our city is done. I urge Council to rethink these plans. Take a more careful, thoughtful, and considerate approach. Below are a list of reasons I believe Council should strongly consider prior to moving forward:

- The requirements to meet the Federal Housing Accelerator Fund may soon change. Polls are projecting a 99% chance that the federal government will change in a few months. There is a strong possibility that the requirements to get funding may soon change and be less restrictive. At least wait until the outcome of the next federal election before making a decision to proceed.
- City council is set to face significant turnover at the next election. A number of councillors and Mayor Clark will not be returning. Let the new council who will be leading our city for the next term make this decision.
- Zoning has huge impacts on cities. For example, look at the changes that are occurring on Broadway. That was a much more careful and measured approach and from the outside looking in, appears to have been very successful. Consider rezoning small portions of the city at a time in the mature areas closer to the core, not entire corridors.
- Consider measures to increase density in new and planned neighborhoods, not mature and established neighborhoods.
- Ensure the best interest of the taxpayers and the future of our city is considered, not what is in the best interest of developers. I would rather a small adjustment in the budget to give funding to the developers than to take advantage of the small amount of federal funding for the developers.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Regards,

Adam Keith