

**Janzen, Heather**

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**From:** City Council  
**Subject:** FW: Email - Communication - Ben Schmidt - Housing Accelerator Fund and Housing Accelerator Phase 2 Zoning Proposals - CK 750-1

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**From:** Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2024 3:52 PM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>  
**Subject:** Email - Communication - Ben Schmidt - Housing Accelerator Fund and Housing Accelerator Phase 2 Zoning Proposals - CK 750-1

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

Submitted on Monday, June 24, 2024 - 15:07

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:** Ben

**Last Name:** Schmidt

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**I live outside of Saskatoon:** No

**Saskatoon Address and Ward:**

**Address:** [REDACTED] Ave F N

**Ward:** Ward 1

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** Housing Action Plan / Housing Accelerator Phase 2 Zoning Proposals

**Comments:**

Dear City Council,

I am writing in to express my complete support for the Housing Action Plan and related zoning changes being proposed at the meeting on June 27th. It is clear that we are facing a housing crisis, and more people are moving to Saskatoon every year than new housing units are being created for. If we do not allow for changes to allow for more dense housing developments then the problem will just continue to get worse. Without making changes to start addressing the housing crisis, rent prices will continue to skyrocket worse than they already are, which is especially alarming seeing as the average price of a two-bedroom apartment increased by 9% in 2023 alone. Adding housing to our city is essential to put some downwards pressure on housing and rent prices, which is critical for those without established wealth. If the cost for shelter continues to climb we will be denying our citizens the ability to live comfortably in our city and for communities to flourish, instead pushing even more people to homelessness as they can't afford to even rent, let alone build the wealth required to buy a house of their own.

The federal government's Housing Accelerator Fund was designed explicitly for cities to develop additional housing and it would be providing the City of Saskatoon \$41.3 million dollars to help in this goal. It would be absolutely foolish for us not to take advantage of this funding to help improve our city. Additionally, if we only focus on new areas of the city to increase development, we will be stretching our infrastructure services even wider, no doubt adding to property taxes as sprawl continues. Focusing on established areas and transit corridors can help those neighborhoods thrive while minimizing additional cost to taxpayers. There is a reason large cities are more dense in their cores and we should be pushing for this as well.

In short, I ask that our city councillors vote in favour of these zoning changes and support the Housing Action Plan. It is essential for the continued well being and growth of our city.

Sincerely,  
Ben Schmidt

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