

Janzen, Heather

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Chad Hammond - Integrating Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice into Saskatoon's Development Framework - CK 150-1
Attachments: Chad Hammond - Letter to Governance and Priorities Committee_March 12 2025.docx

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 4:48 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Chad Hammond - Integrating Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice into Saskatoon's Development Framework - CK 150-1

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

Submitted on Monday, March 10, 2025 - 16:47

Submitted by user: Anonymous

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, March 10, 2025

To: Her Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: They/them/theirs

First Name: Chad

Last Name: Hammond

Email: [REDACTED]

I live outside of Saskatoon: No

Saskatoon Address and Ward:

Address: [REDACTED] Evergreen Blvd

Ward: Ward 10

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Governance and Priorities Committee, March 12, 2025

Comments:

Please consider the contents of this letter. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Attachments:

- [Chad Hammond - Letter to Governance and Priorities Committee March 12 2025.docx](#) 18.96 KB

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

Chad Hammond

██████████ Evergreen Boulevard
Saskatoon, SK ██████████
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March 10, 2025

Mayor Cynthia Block
Members of Saskatoon City Council
City of Saskatoon
222 3rd Ave North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

Subject: Integrating Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice into Saskatoon's Development Framework

Dear Mayor Block and Members of Council,

I am writing in response to the recent submission by the Combined Business Group (CBG) outlining principles aimed at making Saskatoon a more business-friendly city. While economic growth is vital, it must not come at the expense of environmental sustainability, social and economic equity, or the broader well-being of Saskatoon residents. A truly thriving city prioritizes long-term resilience, equitable opportunity, and climate-conscious development alongside business success. Below I have outlined how the CBG principles should be contextualized into a more holistic approach to growth and development.

1. Treat the Local Business Community as Partners—Include the Broader Community

While collaboration with the business sector is important, economic development decisions must also engage diverse stakeholders, including non-profits, Indigenous communities, environmental organizations, and advocates for progressive social change. A truly inclusive partnership model ensures that economic policies strengthen Saskatoon's social fabric rather than widening inequities.

2. Streamline the Business Environment—While Upholding Environmental and Social Responsibility

Simplifying regulations should not come at the cost of sustainability or public engagement. Efficient processes must be paired with strong environmental protections, fair labor policies, and climate-smart planning. Saskatoon has an opportunity to become a leader in sustainable economic development by encouraging businesses that prioritize clean energy, circular economies, and climate adaptation strategies.

3. Reduce the Cost of Doing Business—Without Compromising Essential Public Services

While lowering business costs can encourage investment, reductions in taxes and fees must not undermine vital public services such as transit, housing, and climate adaptation. Instead of broad cuts, the City should offer targeted incentives for businesses that create community benefits, such as local hiring, sustainable operations, and contributions to social impact within our city.

4. Build Transformational Infrastructure—That is Sustainable, Inclusive, and Future-Proof

Infrastructure investments must prioritize resilience and long-term community well-being. This means emphasizing green infrastructure, public transit, walkability, and climate mitigation over urban sprawl and car-centric megaprojects. While developments such as the Downtown Event and Entertainment

District (DEED) have economic potential, they must be weighed by more than just specific economic interests. Questions need to be asked about their social and environmental impacts, questions that can be answered by engaging a broad array of stakeholders who serve to benefit and to suffer from new developments. The city also has its own frameworks to employ for guiding principles to development, including the Strategic Plan 2022-2025 (which includes reconciliation, community well-being, environmental sustainability, and growth engagement among its top 10 priorities) along with its Climate Budget, upcoming Climate Action Plan Update, and Green Infrastructure Strategy.

5. Enhance Safety and Security—Through Social Investment, Not Just Policing

Safe business districts depend on strong communities, not just increased policing and security. Investing in mental health services, harm reduction programs, affordable housing, and public spaces designed for accessibility and inclusivity will foster genuine safety and economic stability. Business security must be addressed holistically, acknowledging the root causes of crime and instability.

6. Elevate Saskatoon's Reputation—As a Leader in Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

Saskatoon's economic reputation should be built on sustainability, equity, and forward-thinking policy. Rather than adopting a narrow "yes to growth" mentality, the City has the opportunity to promote responsible development that supports climate goals, protects natural ecosystems, and benefits all residents, particularly its most vulnerable and economically disadvantaged. A reputation for sustainable leadership will attract businesses and residents who share this vision.

Conclusion

A confident, flourishing future for Saskatoon requires more than a business-friendly agenda—it demands an integrated approach to social, economic, and environmental justice. By embedding sustainability, equity, and democratic engagement into decision-making, the City can build a resilient and thriving community for generations to come.

I urge Council to take bold action toward a future where Saskatoon's economic success is measured by the mosaic of metrics that reflect a prosperous city—including the quality of health, safety, community, engagement, and environment of its residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chad Hammond

