

**Form: Request to Speak to Committee of Council**

Submitted on on Friday, March 2, 2018 - 2:54 pm

==Committee Requested==

**Committee:** Planning Committee

==Requestor Information==

**Name of Individual:** Bill Johnston

**Name of Organization:** Affordable Housing Subcommittee,  
First Unitarian Church of Hamilton

Contact Number:

**Email Address:**

**Mailing Address:**

**Reason(s) for delegation request:**

I seek permission to speak to the Planning Committee at its meeting on March 20, or later if the committee decides, to speak as a followup to the committee's January 16th, 2018 approval of a motion for staff to report back on "significant fees and securities related to development approvals that are typically incurred by affordable housing projects, the estimated cost to the City of waiving or reimbursing these fees, and the potential funding sources for offsetting any lost City revenue."

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I wish to speak in support of waiving all fees for applications for approval by non-profit organizations to build affordable housing projects; and to ask that the Planning Committee ask staff to report on the benefits and implications of giving first priority in processing development applications to projects for affordable housing. That is, when an application for approval for an affordable housing project is received, it would move to the front of the line and be reviewed as soon as it is received, rather than waiting its turn in a first-come, first-served process. The same would apply as the application is circulated through various departments—it would be reviewed in each department when received. Applications would still undergo the normal review process and have to meet the established standards and guidelines. My interest is for rental projects by non-profit organizations, whose target clientele is those in the lowest income brackets. I am not opposed to staff also studying of the implications for affordable housing applications by for-profit organizations or even for ownership projects, provided the definition of affordable remains focused on the lowest income earners who face the greatest challenges finding and maintaining housing.

**Will you be requesting funds from the City? No**

**Will you be submitting a formal presentation? Yes**