

From: Denise Minardi
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 4:07 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Infrastructure

August 10, 2020
Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Council,

I have concerns about amendments that are being considered for the City of Hamilton Urban Hamilton Official Plan (UHOP), and, in light of flooding that has recently occurred in the Strathcona, Kirkendall, Westdale and Ainslie Wood neighbourhoods, feel compelled to express my concerns. Living and working in these neighbourhoods for the last 13 years, I have noticed a tremendous amount of development happening that does not suit the neighbourhood or benefit these communities.

I appreciate that McMaster University and the McMaster Children's Hospital are draws to the west-end of Hamilton but feel that revitalizing the downtown core with a focus on stimulating thoughtful growth east of the downtown core will be of greater benefit to the city as a whole, although, perhaps not as profitable for developers. Six years ago, I volunteered on a City of Hamilton committee – (HEC-IWG infrastructure working group) to discuss aging infrastructure and the problems that this is creating for the City of Hamilton and impact on the City deficit. This group, under John Murray, then Manager of Asset Management, Engineering Services Division, Public Works Department, examined failing infrastructure throughout the City and looked at sustainable infrastructure asset management.

There was an infrastructure crisis in 2014 and I feel that the flooding is linked to the continued problem of deteriorating infrastructure with increased development. The research presented at this time focussed on developing a strategy to communicate the City's infrastructure challenges with the goal of improving transparency and accountability of infrastructure decisions to ensure that services (and development) can be sustained over the long term. The flooding that occurred in homes throughout the west-end is a new phenomenon. My friends and family, who were impacted by the flooding and continue to dry out their basements a week later, have lived in their homes for years and never had a water issue before. Many of them are looking at the development around them and the extra strain on the existing infrastructure and concluding that this is the only change and the likely culprit for the flooding.

As the Mayor and members of councillor consider new development and developers requests for changes to existing city plans and secondary plans, such as those in Strathcona and Westdale-Ainslie Wood, please consider our neighbourhoods and the disruption and long-term impact that new development that does not abide by these plans is having on many Hamilton residents. We are not opposed to thoughtful development that follows the City of Hamilton Urban Hamilton Official Plan and Strathcona Secondary Plan and that works with us to create places to live for new residents who will participate in and enrich our communities. This type of growth should be supported and developed by the members of council and Hamilton residents.

Hamilton is a growing city and a great place to live. Our city benefits from the many new residents who are moving here and want to be a part of our city – the key is to entice them to become permanent residents who contribute to the life of the city and economy.

Overwhelming the existing infrastructure makes life challenging for existing residents and does not make for a welcoming environment for new residents. Please consider the existing challenges to the city infrastructure and the additional strain that will be caused by overdevelopment, such as the 354 King St W-25-storey increase, which do not serve the needs of the Strathcona neighbourhood or City of Hamilton.

As an elected official, you have a duty to listen to the community and weigh the odds of increased revenue for the City of Hamilton with the well-being of its residents and neighbourhoods. Please carefully consider what will make Hamilton the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

Sincerely, Denise Minardi, Strathcona resident