

From: Doyne Ahern <doyne@cogeco.ca>

Sent: March 14, 2021 8:31 PM

To: Frank Ahern; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>

Cc: Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Collins, Chad <Chad.Collins@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Ward 8 Office <ward8@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; Pearson, Maria <Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca>; Johnson, Brenda <Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca>; Ferguson, Lloyd <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>; VanderBeek, Arlene <Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>; Whitehead, Terry <Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca>; Partridge, Judi <Judi.Partridge@hamilton.ca>

Subject: Re: Motion to Delay Land Use Planning Deadline

Dear Mr Farr, Mayor Eisenberger and Councillors:

As you are aware, the province has revised municipal planning guidelines to include population projections to 2051, while lowering density targets for new development and enacting a “market-driven” approach to planning for new residential.

As a concerned Hamilton citizen I request that Hamilton City Council delay Hamilton’s Official Review Plans (MRC) at the March 29 GIC meeting. There is recent precedent for this delay as Halton Hills unanimously voted on February 1st for a delay, and the Region of Halton did the same on February 17.

We must not lock in planning guidelines that encourage sprawl until 2051. Land use planning is the key lever we have in increasing or decreasing greenhouse emissions for decades into the future.

Given COVID restrictions, constituents cannot be properly consulted on major policy decisions. Many Hamilton residents do not have internet access or lack the expertise to use Zoom software to delegate to council. Critical decisions, which will impact Hamilton for the next 30 years, should not be made while in-person consultation is impossible. Hamilton’s 2016-2025 Strategic Plan makes clear the city’s commitment and responsibility to community engagement and participation when it states: “Citizens are consulted and involved in making the decisions that impact them.”

Councillor Fogal of Halton Hills suggests that for this action to delay to be effective, councils around the Golden Horseshoe will need to pass similar motions and stand in solidarity. Therefore, for the sake of our children and grandchildren, I urge you to delay Hamilton’s Official Review Plans (MRC) at the March 29 GIC meeting.

Thank you for considering these important issues.

Sincerely,

Doyne Ahern

--

Doyne Ahern
Hamilton, Ontario