

From: Catherine Woodley

Sent: March 26, 2021 11:36 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: The need for public consultation pertaining to Hamilton's growth plans

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and members of the Hamilton City Council,

I am very concerned that a decision will be made regarding the growth of Hamilton for the next thirty years without providing the opportunity for appropriate public consultation. This is too important a matter to be rushed through: our world is changing around us as I write and paving over paradise (farmland) will have major consequences which might seem minor or unlikely now but will not seem so minor when they occur. Recent flooding in NSW Australia was exacerbated by the expansion of urban/suburban areas: paved areas simply did not allow for the absorption of stormwater runoff generated by 'once in a century flood rains'. Alas, climate change more or less guarantees that we'll all be experiencing 'once in a century' events of various kinds.

I therefore ask you to support the motion calling for a delay regarding this decision. Much more open discussion is needed regarding the deleterious consequences of low-density urban sprawl. Indeed, this type of development only contributes to the problem and makes (catastrophic?) climate change even more likely (e.g. it increases car dependency; replaces vegetated areas with pavement and buildings; requires expensive infrastructure which would be better spent preparing for said climate change - and on other unmet needs, e.g. for low-income housing; etc.)

I look forward to hearing that the Council has seriously considered the need for public involvement and has supported the motion to delay the decision until civil society organizations and members of the public are given an opportunity to air their views. After all, we do live in a democracy.

Yours truly,

Catherine Woodley (Ms.)