

From: Derek Hrynyshyn
Sent: March 25, 2021 11:12 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Input on decision for March 29th

Dear Mayor Eisenberg:

I am writing to you to express my concern about the plan to expand the urban boundary and absorb more agricultural land for conversion to residential development. I am a resident of Ward 1, and have been for the last 15 years, and expect to be for the next several decades. I love living in Hamilton, and believe it has great potential but that potential will never be developed and the city will never be what it could be if we devote our resources to building large communities at the edge of the city, instead of increasing the density in the city centre.

I am opposed to this plan, or any similar plan that prioritizes the outward growth of cities. Urban expansion into such areas should be stopped in order to make our cities denser, more ecologically sustainable, and more liveable as social spaces.

The present plan to build large single-family dwellings on agricultural land is part of a trajectory of urban planning that has been creating large, thinly-inhabited suburbs around major cities across North America and leaving urban centres under-populated and without significant investment. Thriving urban centres are the source of vital communities. Those thinking about what cities they most want to live in could move to any suburb anywhere, but no one wants to live in a deserted, abandoned downtown core.

People never choose cities that they want to live in because it has large suburbs around it to which they need to drive long distances to get anywhere interesting. People want to live in exciting, thriving urban centres. By expanding our urban boundaries, we are doing nothing to make Hamilton the kind of centre that people think of as a desirable place to live, and thus we are doing nothing to attract important investment to our economy.

On top of all of that, the obvious ecological costs of building low-density suburbs, and the extra fossil fuel combustion necessary for transportation long distances to work places, should make it obvious that in an age of a climate emergency, this is absolutely the wrong thing to do.

Please stop this plan at the next council meeting.
Sincerely,

Derek Hrynyshyn
Hamilton, Canada.