

From: Shirla Schellenberg

Sent: March 25, 2021 1:46 AM

To: Ferguson, Lloyd <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>

Cc: VanderBeek, Arlene <Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; Johnson, Brenda <Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; Collins, Chad <Chad.Collins@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; Partridge, Judi <Judi.Partridge@hamilton.ca>; Pearson, Maria <Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Whitehead, Terry <Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Ward 8 Office <ward8@hamilton.ca>; Wilf Ruland; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: March 29 meeting: GRIDS 2 / MCR Report

Dear Councillor Lloyd Ferguson,

We are property tax paying rural residents in Ward 12.

We are very concerned about reports that City Council may be on the verge of making an overly hasty decision to allow urban sprawl throughout Elfrida by approving an expansion of the urban boundary in that area. This is a hugely important decision, which will have ramifications for our City for decades to come.

We are asking you, the mayor, and other city councillors, to pause the decision making/planning process in regard to any urban boundary expansions until in person consultations have occurred.

Not all citizens are comfortable with webinars and zoom meetings and many citizens have no idea what is happening regarding these important decisions. In-person town halls and information sessions are needed so ideas can be exchanged and knowledge gained. It would be irresponsible to be making these important planning decisions during a pandemic, when many people are distracted and many others are not able to properly participate in the planning process.

Urban sprawl is costly and unsustainable. Our tax dollars are needed for our crumbling urban infrastructure, as this is where most people live and work. Population density within our existing urban boundaries can be increased at a much lower cost because the infrastructure needs (such as emergency services, public transportation, schools, roads, utilities, etc.) are already in place.

The planning process regarding potential urban boundary expansion to date has felt rushed and non-transparent and inaccessible.

We sincerely request that you not accept the motion to move forward with the GRIDS 2 / MCR Report without further stakeholder, in-person consultations with the residents of our City.

Sincerely,

*Shirley Schellenberg and Wilf Ruland
Ancaster*