

From: Norman Newbery

Sent: March 25, 2021 7:12 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Submission to Council Meeting, Mar 29 re: Changes to Zoning until 2050

Dear Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Members of Council,

I write with concern about changes to the proposed growth plan for Hamilton which will be in force for the next 30 years. It is absolutely essential that we move forward with plans for growth that are sustainable not only in terms of the costs of maintenance but also in terms addressing the issues resulting from the impacts of suburban lifestyles on the health of its citizens and the entire world. Earlier today, The Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) issued a press release applauding the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling in favour of the constitutionality of a federal carbon price.

They state that "as physicians, their expectation is that governments at all levels will do everything they can to address the climate crisis. Carbon pricing is recognized by over 3,500 economists and 27 Nobel Prize winners as the single most effective tool to manage the climate emergency". Carbon pricing protects our health. The Lancet, the world's top medical journal, calls carbon pricing the best single treatment for climate change. It decreases greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, saving lives and healthcare dollars. "Climate inaction kills, and climate action is good for health."

We need to look at our Zoning, Planning and actions through a climate lens. Our past models of suburban lifestyles that are car based; carbon intensive; inefficient and unaffordable are well documented as major contributors to climate change; poor air quality and unhealthy lifestyles.

A major concern for me is that we are still building most homes according to 1960's energy standards. These homes are out of date even before they are occupied. The Passif Haus (Passive Home Standard) has demonstrated how buildings can be built using up to 90% less energy). We need to consider if as a progressive city we can mandate builders to provide a carbon budget much like happens when we buy a new car or a refrigerator. Inefficient oversized homes might make big profits for builders but they are the worst thing for the environment. We can also expect that millennials will reject these white elephants once their energy characteristics are made available.

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We ask you to delay adopting the proposed growth plan for Hamilton. We need time to more carefully examine our options for development including careful consideration of how we can accommodate greater intensification in our present built up areas to meet the total need for the next 30 years.

At the March 29 meeting, please support the motion introduced by Councilor Brad Clark and seconded by Brenda Johnson to ask for a delay. Hamilton Council should ask the Province to suspend the timetable for municipal conformity to the Growth Plan and the Provincial Policy Statement until after Covid restrictions have passed and citizens can once again assemble and have an active voice in how our city grows.

Your respectfully,

Norman Newbery,

Hamilton