

**From:** Melissa Ricci  
**Sent:** March 22, 2021 8:46 AM  
**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)  
**Subject:** Written delegation re: GRIDS2

Hi there,

My name is Melissa and I am a resident of Ward 2. I am extremely concerned with recent developments being made to cut into existing farmland and greenspace. We have seen numerous examples in the news lately, and the GRIDS2 evaluation is another example. As the city grapples with numerous crises, such as a lack of affordable housing and climate change, spreading the development boundary threatens to make these issues worse.

Some important points to consider:

- Sprawl development is car-dependent & will not help us reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the coming decade.
- These developments are not aging friendly and will create unique challenges for residents as they age (e.g. snow removal, lack of accessible public transportation, no nearby grocery stores)
- Sprawl will consume more farmland & rural open space, putting our local food security at risk and making us more vulnerable to extreme weather impacts.
- There is already a housing crisis in Hamilton and expanding the boundary will not solve this issue. Creating neighbourhoods where people \*need\* cars to exist will not be accessible to many people who need housing during a global pandemic. There are many locations that could be (re)developed within existing zoning, where people already live and already need housing
- A firm boundary will help to build 'complete communities' within the urban area - including enhancing public amenities in existing urban neighbourhoods.

We are privileged in Ontario to have farmland and nearby green space. It would be a misguided decision to develop this land. If the city does consider climate change worthy an emergency, I encourage council to consider the impacts of sprawl on this crisis.

Thank you,

Melissa Ricci