

**From:** Laurie Nielsen

**Sent:** August 3, 2021 11:04 AM

**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

**Subject:** RE: 'How Should Hamilton Grow?' Evaluation Framework

Dear Mayor Eisenberger & Members of the General Issues Committee,

This letter is in reference to Item 8.1 on the agenda – '*GRIDS 2 & Municipal Comprehensive Review – Consultation Update & Evaluation Framework & Phasing Principles*'.

The evaluation criteria themes should not be given an equal weight for consideration in the evaluation framework. *Climate Change* should be weighted the heaviest, by far. The city declared a climate emergency in March 2019 but I have yet to see Council use a climate lens on any decision that it's made. Future generations are relying on Council to do this and there is no time to lose. Climate change is going to have the greatest impact on those who have low (or no) income and rely on affordable housing, public transportation, low taxes, access to green space, etc. City staff seem to be most concerned with the last criteria, *Conformity with Provincial Methodology*.

It's time we stopped allowing the developers to control how the city grows. They are concerned with only their own interests and not making Hamilton a city we can be proud of. Their plans are largely to build for people who cannot a house in Toronto. We have seniors in Hamilton who would *like* to move out of the family home (not interested in "aging in place", as staff worded it!) but want to stay in a walkable neighbourhood (preferably their own) and close to public transportation. Those senior residences on Stone Church and Rymal do not meet these needs. The homes that they give up would serve those families who want a house.

The climate crisis has also demonstrated a need to be more independent in sourcing our food as drought impacts many agricultural areas across North America. Unpredictable rain events make it even more important to ensure that our land can adequately deal with the excess water. Paving it is definitely not the way to deal with it. We have land available in the current boundaries to meet our needs, with the infrastructure already in place. Let's not spend money, that we really don't have, to develop housing on farmland.

Best regards,

Laurie Nielsen