

From: Katie Docherty

Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 3:34 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: No Sprawl

Clerk City Clerk,

My name is Katie Docherty. I moved to Hamilton in September 2020 - I'm in ward 2. I chose to buy in Hamilton as I could no longer afford Toronto. Hamilton drew me in for its urban feel, but its easy access to nature and trails, its wonderful bike lanes, and its potential for great city living at an affordable price.

I started seeing signs for "No Urban Boundary Expansion" and immediately looked into what that meant. I was disappointed to see that the City was considering expanding its boundaries to create more urban sprawl. I immediately pictured those ugly neighbourhoods built on farmland where every house looks the same and there are no trees. If I wanted to live near that, I would have moved to Milton, Maple, Vaughn or any other characterless region. Yuck!

As I walk around Hamilton I can't help but notice tones greyfields; empty parking lots, cement everywhere, boarded up abandoned buildings and homes. EVERYWHERE. Hamilton is constantly referred to as Canada's 'Detroit'. Why hasn't the City of Hamilton considered using these underutilized lots? Why not buy the abandoned buildings and empty parking lots along Main Street, Barton, Cannon, Queenston Rd. etc. to create affordable housing?

We are in a climate crisis. We are no longer approaching one. It feels as though you need to be reminded of that. Let's use what we have before we destroy more to create a bigger footprint. Isn't that saving the climate 101?

I'd also like to know how much Indigenous consultation there has been about this expansion. Surely you know Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation both have equal claim to the land in Elfrida. Can you put yourselves in their shoes for a moment? How much more pain can you create for these communities?

To put it bluntly, this boundary expansion seems incredibly tone-deaf to Canada's climate crisis and Indigenous Reconciliation.

Katie Docherty

Hamilton, Ontario