

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Freeze the Sprawl

From: Marissa Diamond

Sent: March 27, 2021 11:08 AM

To: Ward 1 Office <ward1@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Freeze the Sprawl

Hello,

I am a student and resident in Ward 1 - Chedoke Ave, Hamilton.

I am writing to urge you to freeze the urban boundary and not make a hasty decision that would increase urban sprawl in Hamilton by opening up the White Belt.

I ask that the city council pause the decision-making of land use until after COVID restriction lifts and we can have proper in-person consultations.

Many people are not able to use Zoom meetings and most of the people I know have no idea that the council is about to make land-use decisions which will have a huge impact on our city and our community for generations to come.

Choosing to go the route of urban sprawl will prove expensive for road infrastructure upkeep. It would be much more fiscally responsible to encourage development within existing urban boundaries where we can support a range of housing options and affordability, and easy access to recreational facilities and parks, and frequent public transit.

I am familiar with Dr. Theresa Tam's [Report on the State of Public Health in Canada](#), which links urban sprawl with sedentary lifestyles, less access to healthy food, less physical activity, and higher rates of obesity.

Urban Sprawl is also environmentally unsustainable, erasing valuable farmland and creating homes and buildings where people will need to drive to. This creates a need for more roads, and more cars leading to higher CO2 pollution. This is not the direction we should go in. We need to set ambitious climate goals that will ensure that our children have a future in this city and on this planet.

I request that you not accept the motion to move forward with the GRIDS 2/MCR Report without further stakeholder, in-person consultations with Hamilton residents.

Sincerely,

Marissa Bonilla Diamond