

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Creative solutions to the housing crisis do not include urban sprawl.

From: Lisa Savard-Quong

Sent: March 28, 2021 3:51 PM

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Subject: Creative solutions to the housing crisis do not include urban sprawl.

Hello Hamilton Leaders,

There must be ways to cultivate and fund caring and collaborative housing projects within this city and we are selling ourselves short if we don't challenge each other to make a shift in the right direction starting now.

As a resident of Hamilton I see a city full of opportunity and potential. We have so much infrastructure already in need of life and purpose. Instead of disrupting what is left of our precious fertile earth we need to question our old ways of thinking about housing and come up with creative solutions which benefit our existing communities as well as make room for growth. Urban sprawl seems like a lazy and outdated bandaid solution to a much deeper problem of humanity. We cannot continue to pillage the land which sustains our life and simply ignore the consequences of our actions. We also cannot continue to turn our backs on the people who already struggle to find safe and affordable housing in this city and province. A neighbor of mine who has rented in the ward 3 area for 20 years has to vacate her beloved apt. since the house she lives in has just been sold. A staple in the community for decades, yet she can no longer afford to live in the neighborhood or basically anywhere in the city. Elderly with mobility issues she is being rejected and abandoned like so many others by a broken system during what should be her golden years.

Switching gears, the partnership between Ward 3 councillor Nrinder Nann and the Hamilton Regional Indian Centre and the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Service to transform the empty King George School into a "housing and friendship hub" casts a bright light in this dark time. The idea that city development should be centred around people's quality of life, over a quick money grab should not seem so novel and so rare. We need more of this.

These types of projects create deep, long lasting changes in the community. They take vision, passion and real leadership, something I think Hamilton is full of. With the momentum of this city we have a real opportunity to be an example in the way we care for our fellow citizens by choosing to develop our city practically and respectfully.

Please stand up to those who are using covid as a way to sneak in detrimental development and hold us back from our true potential.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lisa Savard-Quong