

**From:** tom stone112

**Sent:** March 29, 2021 10:19 PM

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

**Subject:** Thomas Klak Comment for April 6th Public Meeting about Secondary Dwelling Units for the City of Hamilton

To whom this may concern,

Hi, my name is Thomas Klak, and I live with my wife Courtenay Brown, and our 10-month-old daughter in Flamborough at # Ofield Rd N. I am writing this to try to encourage everyone on the Planning Committee to look upon the new zoning by-law favourably, and to ask them to do their best to help it pass swiftly and without too much delay.

Our family currently has a building permit under review by the City of Hamilton for an in-law suite for my mom, Maria Klak. We first submitted the permit in the summer of 2020 and were denied by the City as the current zoning we live in, (A1), does not allow for such dwellings. We found this decision to be very unfair and completely unjustified, and I'll try to explain our reasoning as to why we feel this way.

First and foremost, the addition is for an aging parent, and just as the federal government has an immigration policy that favours family reunion, we should have a housing policy that also favours the togetherness of families.

One rationale for the restrictiveness of the current rural zoning by-law is the protection of farmland. We agree wholeheartedly that farmland should be protected, but allowing my mom to live on our 17-acre property will in fact promote the health of our family and community, by giving us more time and resources to devote to gardening and farming.

As everyone should be aware of these days, housing affordability is becoming increasingly challenging for families and everyday citizens. We live in a free country and thus I believe, we should allow the free market to help us with this problem. I believe that simply allowing a greater range of housing options, and eliminating bureaucratic obstacles and hurdles can help. If citizens would be allowed to build more housing and make use of existing infrastructure on their own properties, then the extra supply in the housing market can contribute to making housing more affordable for everyone.

I hope the words I write will be taken into consideration, our family is eagerly awaiting the zoning by-law proceedings to come a conclusion. We are hoping and praying the decisions made by Planning Committee and ultimately City Council, will be beneficial not only to families such as ourselves, but for the greater good of all the residents of the City of Hamilton.

Thank you very much for your time, Take Care.