

November 20, 2023



For the consideration of Hamilton City Council,

I am writing today to support the Planning Committee decision to approve the development proposal at 65 Guise Street East (Pier 8, Block 16) on the condition that the development to *“demonstrate net zero carbon, high efficiency building standards, Pier 8 Block 16 will use best efforts to target the CaGBC’s Zero Carbon Building v3 Design Certification”*.

As Council knows - Environment Hamilton has been pushing for the City of Hamilton to address the ongoing climate emergency through a variety of efforts under the power and control of the City. One consistent course of action that has been discussed in Hamilton and other cities has been sustainable or green building standards. As Council also knows - buildings new and old pose a particular challenge to our collective efforts in reducing both construction related greenhouse gas emissions but also energy consumption caused greenhouse gas emissions. As we and others have stated in numerous delegations to the current and previous Councils - it is imperative that we build sustainable and resilient buildings now so that they do not further contribute to the climate crisis in the future.

It is within this context that I encourage you to take this same approach to all new developments. Every new building constructed in our community that does not achieve these important standards only exacerbates the global problem, and ultimately generates future costs for owners, residents, and the City as we begin to grapple with the daunting task of retrofitting our older and unsustainable building stock.

It is with this in mind and by truly paying attention to what the climate crisis makes a necessity that is increasingly reinforced by the long standing worldwide scientific consensus - it is quite obvious that we ought to be holding all new developments to these same standards. It is my hope that we can build on this decision and ensure that we no longer approve building structures that are already obsolete anywhere in Hamilton. To put it bluntly - at this point in the crisis we find ourselves in, we should not be approving developments anywhere that are not able to meet these conditions.

- Ian Borsuk, Executive Director  
Environment Hamilton