

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Notice of Passing of By-law to Authorize Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Work on Private Residential Property

From: Clement Feierabend

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To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Notice of Passing of By-law to Authorize Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Work on Private Residential Property

Ms. Janet Pilon
Acting City Clerk
Hamilton, Ontario

Dear Ms. Pilon:

I am writing in response to the Notice that you published on November 3, 2023 announcing the proposed by-law to authorize climate change mitigation and adaptation work on private residential property. I would be grateful if you would share the comments/questions that follow with City Councillors to include in their discussion as they consider the proposed by-law.

I understand that it is proposed that initially, a pilot involving 50 homeowners will be launched under the by-law. Each of these homeowners will be provided with an interest-free loan of up to \$20,000 to finance improvements intended to make their home more energy-efficient, and therefore presumably reduce their carbon footprint. Is there an end date for this pilot? Does the pilot involve any followup investigation, after the improvements to the particular property have been completed, to estimate the benefit achieved as a result of the pilot? If yes, what is the duration of the followup period? I assume that a report on the pilot will be presented to Council and made public following conclusion of the followup period.

I understand that Canada accounts for approximately 3.5% of the world's consumption of natural gas. Has Council been provided with an estimate of Hamilton's share of Canada's consumption? Has there been any analysis to estimate the reduction in Hamilton's share of natural gas consumption as a result of running this pilot? Assuming yes, has there been any analysis to determine what impact this reduction due to the pilot will have on climate change overall? Furthermore, has there been any analysis to determine if the estimated benefit of running this pilot justifies its cost (both real cost as well as opportunity cost, since the \$1 million to be loaned to these 50 homeowners will not be available to finance other City responsibilities, such as maintaining infrastructure, etc.)?

My hope is that only if Councillors are provided with the analyses referenced in each question, will they be able to make an informed decision, based on something more than just "feelings" or rhetoric that has been widely promoted, whether to support this by-law. Without these analyses, in my view, at the very least, the by-law should be put on hold until Councillors are provided with the analyses. Thank you in advance for sharing these comments/questions with City Councillors in advance of the meeting tomorrow.

Clement

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