

Pilon, Janet

Subject: my voice to council

From: Adam Pacey

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As a resident of Hamilton, Ontario, I believe it's crucial that we prioritize growth within our pre-2022 boundaries, especially in areas where transit infrastructure already exists. This approach allows us to make the most of our existing resources and minimize the strain on our infrastructure.

To achieve this, we should promote density within our urban neighborhoods. This means removing rigid site restrictions and minimum parking regulations that may hinder development and discourage the efficient use of space. By encouraging denser development, we can create vibrant and sustainable communities.

Furthermore, it's imperative that we protect our finite and fragile farmland. Before any construction projects begin on expansion lands, we should ensure that no shovels hit the ground until after the next election. This gives us an opportunity to thoroughly assess the impact on our agricultural resources and make informed decisions.

To address the financial aspects of growth, we need to understand who will bear the costs. I propose commissioning a report, similar to the one conducted in Ottawa, to identify how growth on expansion lands will be funded. This will help us develop a sustainable and equitable approach to financing growth.

Additionally, we must focus on getting existing approved projects built. It's crucial to streamline the development process and remove any barriers that may prevent the timely completion of these projects. By doing so, we can take advantage of the opportunities that have already been identified and approved.

In order to promote affordable housing, we should incentivize and support the development of affordable laneway housing. This type of housing can provide more affordable options within existing urban areas while making efficient use of underutilized spaces. By creating incentives and removing regulatory hurdles, we can encourage the construction of these affordable housing options.

To ensure a diverse range of affordable housing options, purpose-built rentals, and public investment in housing, we need to explore innovative strategies. It's unfortunate that there is currently no federal support for housing away from transit. Therefore, we must work with other levels of government, private organizations, and community stakeholders to develop creative solutions and secure the necessary funding for housing initiatives.

By addressing these topics and actively engaging in the conversation, we can work towards a more sustainable and inclusive future for Hamilton, Ontario.