

Bates, Tamara

Subject: FW: Support Higher Development Charges + Responsible Growth

From: Rachelle Letain < >
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 9:10 AM
To: Bates, Tamara <Tamara.Bates@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Support Higher Development Charges + Responsible Growth

Dear Tamara Bates,

I hope this message finds you well. As a concerned Hamilton taxpayer, I am writing to express my support for the proposed changes to Development Charges (DCs) for industrial developers, particularly in light of the upcoming meeting of the Audit, Finance, and Administration Committee (AF&A) on February 22, 2024.

I urge the AF&A committee to ensure full consultation with Hamilton taxpayers before the final vote in April, as any discounts on industrial DCs ultimately get transferred to us, the taxpayers.

Specifically, I support the proposed new DC rate of \$41.48 per square foot for all industrial development on greenfields. This measure aligns with the principle that developers should contribute more significantly to the infrastructure costs associated with their projects.

I also advocate for a further increase in Industrial DCs for developers building on unserviced farmland, where there is no existing infrastructure. This additional charge is a fair approach compared to those building on brownfields within the urban area where infrastructure already exists.

Furthermore, it is imperative that any developer who is successful in having their lands added to the Urban Area by forcing the expansion of Hamilton's urban boundary must pay the full costs of urbanization.

During the recent budget period, every Councillor on the committee expressed a strong desire to reduce the tax burden on residents. This upcoming decision on DCs provides a crucial opportunity to ensure that developers, not taxpayers, bear the financial responsibility for growth.

I appreciate your attention to these important matters and trust that you will consider the well-being of Hamilton and its taxpayers in your decisions.

Thank you for your time and commitment to responsible urban development.

Sincerely, Rachelle Letain Hamilton, ON