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From: Lehlia Banting McBeth

Sent: February 26, 2024 11:21 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>; Ward 1 Office <ward1@hamilton.ca>; Ward 2 <ward2@hamilton.ca>; Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Nrinder Nann <ward3@hamilton.ca>; Ward 4 <ward4@hamilton.ca>; Francis, Matt <Matt.Francis@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Ward 8 Office <ward8@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; Beattie, Jeff <Jeff.Beattie@hamilton.ca>; Tadeson, Mark <Mark.Tadeson@hamilton.ca>; Cassar, Craig <Craig.Cassar@hamilton.ca>; Ward 13 <ward13@hamilton.ca>; Spadafora, Mike <Mike.Spadafora@hamilton.ca>; McMeekin, Ted <Ted.McMeekin@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Lake Ave. Proposed Housing

Dear Councillors, Your Worship,

First I wish to thank you all for hearing our concerns and the 8 Councillors (Ted McMeekin, Mark Tadeson, Tom Jackson, Mike Spadafora, Esther Pauls, Jeff Beattie, Brad Clark, Matt Francis) for respecting the information, residents of Stoney Creek, have shared regarding the impact of the proposed housing on the Lake Ave. Municipal lot. I ask the remaining 8 to have a fresh look at circumstances. I honestly respect the difficult position this is for everyone. I truly believe there are solutions that don't require losing resources.

Too many sensationalized headlines paint our community as heartless and NIMBY and sadly a number of City Councillors are helping to fuel that sentiment.

We have a housing crisis and we all understand that. We also have a healthcare crisis and medical services are a large part of what is available in this area. As a result people drive in from around the City and use the lot being discussed.

Accessibility needs, I'd dare say, are higher than average here especially with an aging population.. When people are seeking chiropody, massage therapy, osteopathy, naturopathy, dental/denture, etc. to fill in the gaps of healthcare or require x-ray, mammograms, testing, etc. at the medical building, they are using the lot. This isn't a frivolous ask, this is one lot that serves the community and beyond. Yes there are also many small businesses in the area that rely on the lot and the Legion, churches, community programs, events and more.

2016 is the year of the study that identified the lot in question, as being surplus. Look how much the landscape of the City and Province has changed since. Is it just possible that you can see this is no longer the case?

We can all work together to help with housing but it shouldn't come down to a community losing a resource, as many vacant and under utilized lots are available.

I do not understand why City land is listed for sale to developers when it could be used for housing immediately. There are many approved projects not started or completed as Developers wait on bank rates to drop, to be more profitable. Why would we tie up more land by selling it at this time? Supply and demand is how we landed in an affordable housing crisis. Stop feeding land to developers that won't build during this crisis.

We have all witnessed reports of the Vrancor affordable housing proposal receiving a lack of enthusiasm by the Hamilton Community Housing board, chaired by Councillor Nann, who is reported as urging denial of the plan on grounds of setbacks and parking. It is a housing crisis not a minor variance crisis, correct? Seeing some members of the same board, now shaming Councillors who hear our concerns, and trivialize our concerns as simply being about parking, is rather hypocritical. What has the board done to bring discussions back to the table? Are we too proud to reach out to Mr. Vranich as we navigate a housing crisis?

There are reports of Dundas having too much parking that they are not using. What opportunities are being considered there?

Councillor Francis has provided an alternative, also on Lake Ave. that would provide many more amenities for transportation, school, shopping, groceries, all things not readily accessible in Downtown Stoney Creek, speak with anyone living here now without a car.

Councillor Clark also mentioned an idea of offsetting the loss with underground parking, an idea Matthew Trombetta of Titan Mortgage mentioned at the Community Meeting. We are trying to find ways to meet everyone's needs. Will you?

I ask the original 8 Councillors to remain with their vote to reject the current proposal and that others consider joining them.

Lastly, the threat of using the Strong Mayor Powers would be the death of democracy, just as allowing the residents living in the affected area to be drowned out would be. Take the options available and make a decision that utilizes what is not being used, not removing what is being well used.

I am a resident, my family have lived here since by grandparents. My father was Reeve of Saltfleet Township and a pilot in the RCAF. I was raised to believe in service to the community and as such, I serve on two community boards and co-created a local festival, I also have a small business and a full time Administrative position with a

Canadian company.

Everyone has an opinion but those living here have perspective. The wellbeing of current and future residents is very important. Remember, quick fixes have long lasting impacts.

Respectfully,

Lehlia Banting McBeth