

Pilon, Janet

Subject: No Boundary Expansion

From: Nessa Olshansky

Sent: November 14, 2023 11:30 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

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Clerk City Clerk,

Dear Mayor and Council,

We call on you, our Mayor and Council, to restore the decision from November 2021 to freeze the urban boundary in Hamilton.

Mayor Horwath has made a firm commitment to hold the boundary firm but speculators, in tandem with the Province, will be lobbying the Mayor to expand. Earlier this week, the Province made a special rule allowing Mayors the ability to unilaterally force an urban expansion.

We need Mayor Horwath and the Council to stand firm.

With unprecedented engagement, Hamiltonians have been clear. We value our farmland and can meet our housing targets within our previous existing boundary. We expect our council to hold the line.

We know that sprawl is both economically and environmentally unsustainable. While developers will make significant profits off sprawl, existing residents will have to foot the bill for servicing costs, increasing our property taxes year over year. City housing stats reveal that we have over 1200 acres within the former urban boundary to provide a mix of housing types. Compact growth will allow us to make better use of our existing infrastructure, including roads, sewers and parks, while preserving valuable agricultural land.

Further, it will help build more vibrant neighbourhoods, support better transit, and help keep schools open. With our present labour shortages, we need to prioritize construction labour

and materials to projects which can quickly build the affordable homes we need, not McMansions on distant farmland.

We will be watching at the November 14th Planning Committee meeting and at Council on November 22nd. We are counting on you, as Mayor and Council, to do the right thing to save our farmland and to prioritize affordable homes in liveable neighbourhoods.

Nessa Olshansky