

From: Christine Quail

Sent: Monday, December 2, 2024 11:50 AM

To: Kroetsch, Cameron <Cameron.Kroetsch@hamilton.ca>

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca; Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Hwang, Tammy <Tammy.Hwang@hamilton.ca>; Francis, Matt <Matt.Francis@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Danko, John-Paul <John-Paul.Danko@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>; Wilson, Alex <Alex.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Spadafora, Mike <Mike.Spadafora@hamilton.ca>; McMeekin, Ted <Ted.McMeekin@hamilton.ca>

Subject: ADUs in Hamilton

Dear Councillor Kroetsch, Mayor Horwath, and City Council,

I am writing to voice my concern over Councillor Danko's upcoming motion that would limit two-storey laneway dwellings in Hamilton. Please do not support this motion. It is not in Hamilton's best interest.

I live in Ward 2 on a block that has laneways on either side, single-family houses, converted houses, and apartment buildings. I do not have, nor plan to build, an ADU. I write from a place of social concern, not of personal benefit.

Sustainable urban density is crucial to the city's collective wellness; sprawl and environmental/ecosystem degradation works against collective human, animal, social and environmental justice. Two-storey ADUs are one small piece of the sustainable housing puzzle.

Hamilton is in the midst of a long and worsening housing crisis. Our city's housing availability, accessibility and affordability is untenable. As you know, unhoused folks need immediate, safe housing. Rental rates are unaffordable, and rental supply cannot meet demand. Home purchasing prices have skyrocketed, making purchasing a home (whether a condo, townhouse, or detached house) impossible for most people. Housing is a human right, yet so many of our neighbours are forced to choose between housing and food, going without on a regular basis.

As we know, housing precarity is directly tied to other social problems, like systemic racism, intergenerational trauma, mental health issues, substance use/addiction, colonial violence, anti-trans violence, education inequality, transportation inequality, and bad policies and governmental overreach that weaken workers' collective organizing and bargaining rights (such as this week's Postal Workers' layoffs while on strike). Each intersecting issue is affected by deepening housing crises.

We might be reminded that income and wealth inequality in Canada are also deepening, and housing inequity is a key element of these gaps. I offer this report by Yassin et al., from July 2024, which provides nation-wide statistics that we can help think with: <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/july-2024/income-wealth-inequality/>

Hamiltonians have voiced our concerns and have participated in numerous information-gathering sessions, surveys, and town halls about housing over the past several years. The solution is not boundary expansion. We know this, and we've democratically agreed. Density is key. We know this, and we've

democratically agreed. Additional dwelling units have been one small part of this overall strategy -- we know this, and we've democratically agreed.

Why, then, are we revisiting a low-bar effort at creating more housing? Is the reason the scapegoating of unhoused folks, precariously housed folks, renters? Are Councillors concerned that wealthy neighbours would have their views blocked by a two-storey dwelling, or that they are aesthetically displeasing? Why do we need to second-guess, and try to overturn our own decisions? If there are minor concerns or pragmatic issues to work out, isn't that just part of municipal leadership?

Please, Council, spend your efforts and time on solving our urgent housing problems and related issues and social service needs, such as safe use sites and wrap around services--and thanks for your support of HATS projects--not wasting time by revisiting already-agreed upon solutions, even if they are minor solutions. Having a coherent strategy for sustainable development and providing safe and livable spaces in Hamilton is essential.

I further urge Council to work with other governments to advocate for and collaborate on additional socially sound and less market-driven solutions to housing problems. I am in favour of stronger rent control; requiring many more affordable housing units in new high-rises; requiring many more family-focussed (three bedroom) housing in new builds; partnering with firms that are concerned not with 'luxury' housing but 'livable' housing; finding ways to prevent rampant land speculation; supporting creative solutions that you've suggested, Councillor Kroetsch, in terms of turning parking lots into housing, or as Councillor Wilson has been working on, considering transforming public golf courses into public park spaces that also include sustainable, accessible housing. And other solutions yet to be imagined.

Thank you, Councillor Kroetsch, for your tireless work on housing issues in Hamilton. I appreciate your efforts and the results they bring when Council works together to elevate the needs of the most vulnerable and takes a holistic approach to our most pressing needs.

Leave this low-hanging fruit of two-storey ADUs be, and channel your collective energy towards the hard work that needs to be done.

Thank you very much for reading this, and for your public service.

Respectfully and Gratefully Submitted,
Christine Quail, Ward 2 resident