

From: Chris Slye

Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 11:21 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Letter to be added to the Agenda for Wednesday Regarding Urban Boundary Expansion - Chris Slye

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear City Clerk,

Please add the following letter to the Agenda for this Wednesday's Council Meeting regarding Urban Boundary Expansion.

I am writing this letter to strongly discourage City Council from considering an Urban Boundary expansion. I feel like this is a nightmare all of us residents have to constantly relive. As a Father, my desire is for my two young children to be able to live in the wonderful City of Hamilton when they grow up. As we have seen over the past (more than) 40 years, developer-driven Urban Sprawl has led to our current housing and cost of living crisis. Stretching our great city out further and further has led to an unsustainable infrastructure deficit that we have not even come to terms with. Our goals need to be to continue to develop inwards utilizing existing lands within the boundaries, and assisting with developments that increase our density in the City. We need to encourage more mixed use low-rise housing/commercial spaces as well as making it as easy as possible for residents to add EDU's or rezone properties into Duplexes or Triplexes.

When I ran for City Council in 2022, the residents of Ward 6 were steadfast in wanting to hold firm on the urban boundary. Residents are scared of losing their valuable farmland permanently, and are tired of profit-seeking developers deciding how we are to build our great city. Residents are also scared, like me, that their kids will have to leave Hamilton in order to find an affordable place to live. Developers will tell you that this is exactly why they need to be allowed to build outside of the boundary - a tale we would almost believe if we didn't have so much history to look back on. This Council needs to focus, to the best of its ability, on non-profit housing solutions.

The benefits of holding firm on the urban boundary and continuing to develop within those limits are many. We get to keep our environmental pledge (Council did declare a climate emergency after all) that was made a few years ago. Transit solutions will continue to make more and more sense as there are more potential users. We get to increase our tax base but keep the same amount of roads and pipes and other infrastructure considerations. And as a small business owner, I can say that many other business owners will not be complaining if they have more people living near their restaurants and coffee shops.

There is of course a human argument to be made here. Should we continue down the path of letting the profits of a small few companies drive our decisions as a society? Can we still value things like green spaces, wildlife habitats and nature even though they may not produce

immediate monetary value? I believe we can, and having knocked on thousands of Hamilton doors over the past decade or so on countless campaigns, I know I am not alone.

Thank you for your considerations,

Chris Slye