Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 10:06:57 AM

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Delegation information
Committee: Executive Policy Committee
Committee - council: N/A
Committee - other: N/A
Agenda item (number and title): 19. Housing Accelerator Fund

Service inquiry: Submit Comments in writing
Participation preference: N/A
Comments in writing: Hello members of the Executive Policy Committee,

I am writing to you in favour of including the three recommendations from the federal Housing Minister in Winnipeg's Housing Accelerator Fund application. I cannot think of a greater and more respectful way to celebrate National Housing Day on Nov. 22nd than to, one day later, put in place a policy direction that would end Exclusionary Zoning. If I understand correctly, this will be much easier to do if the three items are approved by Council's Executive Policy Committee first.

I reflect on the need for a new approach to zoning and land-use when I consider our growing and changing population. Entrenched, Exclusionary Zoning that barred multi-family homes from vast swaths of residential areas and enforced oneplexes and sprawl was never a great system for anyone. It contributed to sprawling infrastructure obligations, strained city public services, and vast greenhouse gas pollution. But Exclusionary Zoning also hindered options for multi-generational households, which are especially relevant to many Indigenous and newcomer families. Exclusionary zoning has also been a nightmare for affordability writ-large and building effective transit corridors.

The nearly $200 million the City stands to receive from the federal government through the Housing Accelerator Fund will do a lot of good, for affordable housing and other city initiatives. But the longstanding zoning changes the policy direction of a progressive Housing Accelerator Fund application would usher will be of even greater value for the City and all its residents.

That is why I am urging the Executive Policy Committee to vote to include the federal Housing Minister's recommendations in Winnipeg's Housing Accelerator Fund application. I understand there will still be dimensional standards and water servicing capacity constraints, based on the professional assessment of Winnipeg's civil service, to stand as restrictions. Longer-term, I am hopeful that Winnipeg can deal with our water and sewer system capacity through reinvestments in mature neighbourhoods and a fully

funded and effective infrastructure plan. I would also be pleased to see the City of Winnipeg make progress on its brownfield strategy, which last I checked (back in 2017) was stalled.

I hope the Executive Policy Committee makes the right choice today. It would be unconscionable to jeopardize nearly $200 million in federal funds for Winnipeg just to avoid doing the right choice.

A petition to end Exclusionary Zoning in Winnipeg is in circulation right now. I would like the Executive Policy Committee to know that it will be presented to the full Winnipeg City Council on November 23rd.

Thank you for time,

Dylon Martin
File:
Public engagement preference: Yes