SUBMISSION – DAVID GRANT

ITEM 10 - Report – Executive Policy Committee – December 4, 2024 - Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) – 2025 Proposed Initiatives

Submitted: Tue, 12/10/2024 - 00:23

Committee you want to address
Council

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)
EPC 10

Support or oppose recommendations
I am opposed to the recommendations

Register as a delegation
Via zoom

Comments
10. HAF I am very much against this and its 15 fellow proposals being adopted without any deliberation. This abuse of the CONSENT AGENDA process violates good business and governance rules. Do you all agree that making massive changes in the livability of our neighbourhoods is not worth 2 minutes of your time? We see here 10s of millions of tax dollars handed to for-profit home builders. Some of us see this as a violation of the public trust; many believe that more new homes would now have families in them, if the HAF had never been proposed.
In so many ways, this report says HAF has failed. Some HAF rules run against the public interest. Initially, many of us believed that the HAF money would support the building of homes, by paying for city infrastructure, as needed. We were told it would help. Not so! It seems that none of Ottawa's money will cover the city's out-of-pocket costs in the field. Worse than that, the city will not even collect the full municipal taxes that normal developments produce. The middle word of HAF suggests urgency, that affordable homes would be ready sooner. The opposite seems to be true. A greenfield development would have produced more homes sooner and at lower costs to our neighbourhoods. Like a lot of Ottawa's programs, huge amounts of tax money flow to the very few, as with ArriveCan and various green and vax acquisition schemes. If it will take more than 4 years, from 2021- 2025, to get people into those homes, has HAF not failed? With so many tracts of land already laid out for new housing, why are those builders still waiting years for permits? Many thousands of new homes are just waiting for the stroke of that city pen. Has anyone here noticed? Some of these shovel-ready developments, such as the Parker, FRRY and Lemay lands, have been waiting for over 12 years. If the city is serious about providing more homes sooner, why not approve all that are shovel-ready? Winnipeg's permit approvals process has been in the headlines before. Targeted logjams have long plagued new housing. In the interest of good governance, why not ask your Audit team to study the functionality of those processes?

Public engagement (optional) - **I consent to being contacted to participate in potential public engagement related to this matter.**
Yes