

I'm writing to expression my alarm, concern and frustration at the about-face from the city re: Bill 23, and the resulting 'pledge' from the city.

First, this report was not released with the meeting agenda-it was dropped on a Thursday, barely 24hrs before the delegate submission deadline. It was not appended to the meeting agenda where it will be voted on. It was only a news article link that landed me on the page, and it was difficult to find on the city's website. Why was this handled like this? This does not give the public time to read through it, & related topics and contact our ward Councillors and/or city staff with concerns, clarifications, etc.

Second, the city staff have no reason to previously object to Bill 23 on the grounds we can't handle it (no infrastructure, budget, public consultation, groundwater issues, etc) and then effectively rubber stamp it. There are too many vague parts throughout like "*Applying LEAN principles to the development review process to improve efficiency and processing timelines.*" that are not adequately explained, either to the public or the province.

Third, and most important, the 'city' part of the pledge, i.e. what Guelph will commit to, contains major changes that have **not** been part of any public, democratic, inclusive development process. I haven't had time to pour over the report, but two issues that stick out are removing exclusionary zoning, and "streamling" or removing public participation/inclusion for supportive housing projects.

Supportive housing is not housing policy, it is drug strategy (housing first refers to giving homeless/at risk drug users permanent housing regardless of community safety/CCRF considerations, previous tenancy issues, etc. The supportive part includes, but isn't limited to on-site consumption sites and dispensing drugs.)

This harm reduction drug strategy has never had any democratic mandate or public development process. In addition, social housing is overseen by the County, so Guelphites have no elected representation or input in the initial development phases. Both the mayor's task force on homelessness and Toward Common Ground were formed by socio-religious advocates who actively exclude individuals and groups who are not harm reduction advocates. That means these groups can, and have developed projects entirely out of the democratic process, then applied for funding. With these new changes, they will now be able to do that and not have **any** public input or accountability at all. That means Guelph's federal and provincial funding allotment for social housing can be entirely used up for projects that never see the light of day outside the behind the scenes agendas of the participating groups.

Ending exclusionary zoning will allow any type of housing to be built anywhere in the city, without the public's ability to object or place restrictions on developers or participate in the development process.

This pledge will entirely remove the public from the equation—allowing any homeless shelter, consumption site, even sanctioned encampment to be built anywhere in the city, including next

to schools, daycares, and retirement homes. with no restrictions, including CPTED (crime prevention through environmental design), or vulnerable group consideration (including human rights status groups like the disabled and elderly).

Other projects will be impacted by ending exclusionary zoning: Don't want a 23 storey building in an area w/no infrastructure-and/or in a low rise family neighbourhood? Tough. Concerned about greenspace loss for housing projects? Too bad. A developer can (and actually has, at Sheldale) carved the green space off existing buildings' property to put supportive housing on it, without consulting residents.

These and other provisions in this report are a major change and a serious blow to democracy, transparency and diversity, equity and inclusion. The asks to the province are just that, with nothing behind them.

There is no way this should even be put to council at this point, and should be deferred until there are public town halls on these changes, with all city department staff there to answer questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

jj salmon  
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