
From: Chanel Cressman
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 3:17 PM
To: Delegation (SM)
Subject: March 18 Council Meeting -- Inclusionary Zoning and Growing Together

Dear Councillor:

I live at _____ in the Cedar Hill neighbourhood. As a member of the Cedar Hill Community Group, I have become attuned to the housing challenges effecting Rainbow Row and the impact to the lives of those 34 people. The lack of affordable housing and the instability that poses for those individuals is alarming. Our family has been lucky enough to own our house, a privilege I am not certain we could afford if we were starting out today.

I am excited to see that Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) is being considered in conjunction with Growing Together. As I watched the Jan 29th proceedings, I was shocked by the glaring absence of any representation from those in support of affordable housing in the IZ portion of the meeting. Delegations were dominated by the development community members whose presentations were unconscionably dismissive of IZ.

The City of Kitchener Inclusionary Zoning is a conservative version of that of other cities and the province's guidelines. But if allowed to proceed it has the potential to offer 800+ affordable homes over the next 10 years. How can that be ignored?

I ask that City of Kitchener say "yes" to Inclusionary Zoning to the full extent permitted by law or at the very least to the standards outlined in Staff Report DSD-2024029 immediately. Show other cities in Waterloo Region and Ontario that we are committed to housing our residents regardless of their income. Please stop the depletion of affordable housing in Kitchener and take positive steps to add to that dwindling inventory. Simply focusing on housing supply alone will not fix the problem. Each year Ontario loses 20,000 units on the private market through both renovictions and demovictions. Here is one piece of the puzzle that could help reverse that trend.

Sincerely,

Chanel Cressman