

Good Evening. My name is Jennifer Walker . As a life long resident of Burlington, I've seen our city grow and change and as a business owner I'm well aware of the importance of attracting people to this city. I understand the importance of affordable housing and different living choices so that more people are able to get into the housing market which in turn means more investments to our neighbourhoods and more employment opportunities.

We chose to live in Burlington and specifically selected Alton Village as we saw it as a great place to raise a family with schools, parks and amenities all within walking distance. It seemed like it would be a safe place with quiet roads and neighbours with young families like ourselves. We chose Ferguson Drive for our new home picturing that our kids would be able to play out front as I did growing up in Burlington. When we purchased we were aware that 4853 Thomas Alton was zoned for a density of 110 units per hectare with commercial zoning across the street to provide local conveniences for the community. However, we now see that 10 years after purchasing our home, what may have looked good on paper at the time is just not the reality in Alton Village.

The reality is that the traffic is a nightmare, the streets are too busy for kids to walk to school or to safely ride their bikes.

People are already using Ferguson as one of the main through roads to enter and exit the community. Earlier this fall our worst fears were realized when a young girl was hit by a car on our street while riding her bike, this was witnessed by my husband and children.

There is no doubt that traffic will only intensify on our street as the residents in the proposed high density site are unable to turn left out of the buildings and decide to use Ferguson as their exit onto Dundas Street.

The schools are already over capacity. Two of my three children attend Alton Village Public School. A.V.P.S. is in its fifth year and in that time it has grown to more than 1000 students. The school already has 9 portables and has undergone a multimillion dollar extension. My third child will enter kindergarten next year and because of the already overcrowding at the school all of the current, 9, kindergarten classes, do not get their provincial mandated 20 minutes of daily physical activity because there simply isn't enough gym space to provide it.

With this new, proposed high density, we have considered moving out of Alton Village and have looked at numerous homes in other neighbourhoods but in the end our boys love their school and don't want to move and we respect that.

All I have to do is look at my childhood, growing up in Burlington, attending the same school with friends and knowing how much I loved never knowing boundary changes or moving schools and contrast that with my husband's schooling where he moved countries and schools every couple of years, and knowing the difficulties and pressure that come with that. We just don't have the heart to uproot them from the school and community that they know and love. The new proposed development will most certainly trigger a boundary review with our kids caught in the cross hairs and potentially being bused out of their own community.

In your Grow Bold, build smart campaign you talk about "targeting growth to the right areas of the city" How is Alton, which is already a traffic,

walking, schooling and parking nightmare the right choice for hyper intensification?

Part of the mandate for the Grow Bold, build beautiful is "City streets that are easy to navigate and pleasant to walk along. Many neighbours, including myself fear for the safety of their children and won't let them walk to school. Wide sidewalks in our neighbourhood simply don't exist.

The treed streets, places to sit and beautiful parks and public squares-this all sounds lovely but is distinctly lacking in Alton.

It seems like the only aspect of the Grow Bold campaign that we will inherit is the build up to embrace density part.

If you haven't already, we urge you to visit our community any morning, Monday through Friday, between 8:15 and 9am, during a school week and tell us how we can possibly accommodate more cars safely.

We would ask each councillor to seriously consider the huge impact that your vote will have, not only on the community of Alton Village but the precedence that it will set for Burlington as a whole.

Thank you for your time.