

March 21, 2024

Subject: Special Meeting- Agenda Item 18.3 from the Council Meeting Agenda of March 19, 2024.

Dear Council Members:

The Strong Mayors Act (a.k.a. The Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, 2022) was enacted in support of the following “provincial priorities”:

- * building 1.5 million new residential units by 2031; and,
- * the construction and maintenance of infrastructure to support accelerated supply and availability of housing including, but not limited to, transit, roads, utilities, and servicing.

The Act was expanded in August of 2023 to include more cities such as Burlington. From November of 2023 to Feb 16, 2024, Burlington Mayor Meed Ward issued 10 Mayoral Decisions.

<https://www.burlington.ca/en/council-and-city-administration/mayoral-decisions.aspx>

The Pipeline to Permit Committee that I suspect was put into place to “Build Homes” faster was inaugurated on Feb 7, 2024, almost 7 months after our City and Mayor accepted the new powers.

One of the questions yet to be answered is, how did those 10 Mayoral decisions help build homes faster?

When electors were casting their votes in the last municipal election they knew what they were voting for. That all changed when the Province decided to delegate Strong Mayor Powers to more communities. Burlington had a chance to pass on this and have chosen to take a second look. Why? It is not readily apparent to this taxpayer.

I have not seen anything substantive on the provinces priorities since this change was put in place.

I have supported the need for recall legislation via a petition brought forward by The Taxpayers Federation Petition asking Premier Ford to introduce such legislation in Ontario. Alberta and British Columbia have recall legislation that gives voters the right to trigger byelections.

I do see the pros and cons of the Legislation; however I **DO NOT SUPPORT** the powers in their current form in Burlington. In principle, due to the absence of recall legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Gaetan BGS

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