

Cornerstone Association of REALTORS®

City Hall - 426 Brant Street
Burlington, ON L7R 3Z6

PL-92-24 COW Dec 3, 2024
Julie Sergi, correspondence

Attn: Mayor and Members of Council, City of Burlington

Support for Draft Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments to Increase Housing Options

Dear Mayor Meed Ward and Members of Council,

Thank you for accepting this correspondence from the Cornerstone Association of REALTORS® (Cornerstone), formerly known as the REALTORS® Association of Hamilton-Burlington (RAHB). Cornerstone represents REALTORS® serving in the markets of Burlington, Hamilton, Mississauga, Waterloo Region, Niagara North, Haldimand County, Norfolk County and surrounding areas. We are Ontario's second-largest real estate board, comprised of just over 8,000 REALTORS®. Housing policy issues such as increasing supply options are a priority for our members. As such, we feel it is important to weigh in with our support for the proposed amendments to the Official Plan and Zoning By-law.

On behalf of the Cornerstone Association of REALTORS®, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the City of Burlington's ongoing efforts to address the critical need for increased housing options within our community. We are writing to formally express our support for the Draft Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment as outlined in Report Number PL-92-24, which aims to enhance housing opportunities while respecting the character of Burlington's established neighborhoods.

We are particularly encouraged by the focus on intensification, which considers the context and character of Burlington's neighbourhoods while providing opportunities to increase the diversity of housing options. The amendments propose sensible policy changes that will increase housing options while ensuring that the integrity and character of Burlington's neighborhoods are maintained. The inclusion of built form as the defining metric for development, rather than density, represents a prudent strategy that will enhance the flexibility of our neighborhoods to accommodate more housing while minimizing disruption to existing residents.

Additionally, we support the proposal to reduce parking requirements, in certain areas, for additional residential units (ARUs), which can remove significant barriers to housing creation and promote the efficient use of land. This forward-thinking approach will help maximize the use of existing infrastructure and reduce the impacts of excessive parking requirements.

Finally, we acknowledge and appreciate the extensive community engagement undertaken throughout this process. The City of Burlington is doing a fantastic job listening to residents. It is not possible to please everyone; however, the proposed amendments strike a thoughtful and fair balance.

We want to extend our gratitude to Mayor Meed Ward, City Council, and the City's Planning staff for their dedication to improving housing options in Burlington. We look forward to the continued development of this important initiative and offer our full support as these amendments progress.

Thank you for your leadership in advancing this important work. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information or wish to discuss our position in greater detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Sergi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Julie Sergi
Chair, Cornerstone Association of REALTORS®