



HOUSING ALTERNATIVES INC.

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November 20, 2024

Planning Advisory Committee
City of Saint John
15 Market Square
Saint John, NB E2L 4L1

Dear Members of the Planning Advisory Committee,

I fully support the Sunnyside Tiny Home Community and the requested amendment to the municipal plan and a zoning change. This United Way Saint John, Kings & Charlotte project addresses an urgent and growing need for affordable housing and support services in Saint John.

The need in Saint John is critical: in August, 224 individuals experienced chronic homelessness, with over 663 people experiencing homelessness at some point in the past year. Rising rents and lingering affordability challenges have put stable housing out of reach for many people who have never experienced these challenges before. It is especially true for single, working-age New Brunswickers. There is a distinct shortage of non-profit, supportive housing options, like Sunnyside, to help address this growing crisis. As Executive Director of Housing Alternatives, I have seen how stable housing with 24/7 wrap-around supports, like those proposed for Sunnyside, can transform lives and strengthen communities.

The Sunnyside Tiny Home Community will offer 75 affordable units, with each resident paying no more than 30% of their income for rent. The brand new community's high-quality modular homes will allow for rapid construction to get people housed before winter 2026. 24/7 support services will ensure residents' stability and reduce the risk of them falling back into homelessness. This combination will foster a supportive community where residents can regain stability and independence.

Thank you for your commitment to a more thriving and affordable city.

Sincerely,

Kit Hickey
Executive Director

Friday, November 22, 2024

City of Saint John

Dear Members of the Planning Advisory Committee,

Saint John Energy is proud to offer its full support for the Sunnyside Tiny Home Community and the requested zoning amendment. As a community-owned utility with a long-standing commitment to Saint John, we believe this project represents an opportunity to address our city's housing crisis.

Our employees volunteer over 2,000 hours annually and contribute consistent financial support to initiatives aimed at reducing generational poverty. Through this work, we recognize that housing is fundamental to breaking the cycle of poverty. This understanding is why we are proud to provide a piece of our land to the United Way to support the Sunnyside project and help ensure these homes are built before next winter.

Saint John Energy has a long-standing partnership with United Way and great confidence in their ability to successfully manage and operate this project. Their proven track record in delivering impactful community initiatives assures us that Sunnyside will provide the stability and support its residents need to thrive.

With 75 affordable homes and 24/7 wrap-around support, the Sunnyside Tiny Home Community will create a path out of poverty.

We look forward to welcoming new neighbors to this part of Saint John and seeing the positive impact Sunnyside will have on our community. We strongly urge the Planning Advisory Committee to approve the necessary zoning changes to make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,



Ryan Mitchell
President and CEO
Saint John Energy

-----Original Message-----

From: jamie connelly <jame.connelly@hotmail.com>

Sent: October 18, 2024 7:49 AM

To: Common Clerk <commonclerk@saintjohn.ca>

Subject: Hello

[You don't often get email from jame.connelly@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Good day,

I see that there is a plan to put some mini houses to what is called sunny side. I live in that area I do not agree with this. This is a nice area it's clean and very nice area, this would turn into something like waterloo street. I do not agree with this and not want this in my neighbourhood. I worked hard to get my house where it is and this would take the value of my house. There is a grave yard across the street where people feel safe to walk alone or with their animals or visit their lost ones. They don't need all these mini homes right beside this area to make people feel safe to be able to do that anymore. There are other places to put this besides on the busiest street in Saint John.

Jamie Connelly
5066540890

Sent from my iPhone

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeremy Cairns <jbcairns@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 11, 2024 2:31 PM
To: Common Clerk <commonclerk@saintjohn.ca>
Subject: Sunnyside Tiny Home community

[You don't often get email from jbcairns@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

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Hi Jonathan,

I'm all in for affordable housing. My concern with this approach is ghettoization. The location of Sunnyside Tiny Home community has a lot going for it with easy access to nearby services. The privacy and autonomy that small units afford residents is also an excellent approach. However, no-where in the proposal have I seen support services, a transition plan, or policies that state the goal of the project beyond cheap places to live. Having grown up in extreme poverty, I know that without mechanisms in place to prevent crime and abuse, a community will decline, drawing resources from law enforcement and becoming a safety burden on the surrounding area.

I am far from an expert in these things. I've payed attention to the topic and participated in some of the efforts launched in Vancouver prior to moving here. Vancouver is a different animal, but from what I've studied, in smaller communities like Saint John homelessness can be circumstantial and transitional if there is a dignified support infrastructure that helps people with a multi-tiered system of safe housing, monetary assistance, mental health services, and occupational support. Simply dropping people into a community with cheap housing and no well-funded and audited support infrastructure is simply repeating a cycle that has proven to hurt communities and those it's meant to serve.

I suggest this housing project be, A) run by an established private organization as a non-profit Saint John Housing Authority audited by the Province with a well-supported (as stated above) 2 year transition plan for occupants, or B) act as a 55+ homeless support infrastructure with substance abuse services and the goal of safely transitioning occupants to independent living or long term care homes as they become available.

Thanks,
Jeremy Cairns

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