To Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Hamilton City Councillors

June 25, 2009

I would like to comment on the special meeting between the Councillors (On the Planning Committee) and the Planning and Economic Development Staff on June 22, 2009. Both myself as a representative of the taxpayers of Hamilton and the Twenty road east group representing 25 local land owners have made a passionate effort during the past 3 years to have both City Councillors and City Planners listen to reason and logic regarding the overwhelming reasons for including the Twenty Road East Area into any future Hamilton Grow Plan. Back then we explained that this area between the Glenbrook Business Park and the Airport already had tens of millions of dollars of city services such as schools, parks, police and fire services close by. Since that time, City council has approved a plan to supply this area with sewers along, Dickenson Road from the Business Park to the Airport in 2011. They also approved the nearby James-Rymal Area as a major North-South, East-West Transport Hub. Most recently the city has spent millions more of taxpayers dollars on a "State of the Art " Library, YMCA and Skate Boarding Ramps in Turner Park. All of these public facilities as well as the Chippewa Hiking Trail are within walking or bicycle distance of The Twenty Road East Area. By extending any of a number of east mountain roads northerly by approximately a kilometre, they would enter the Twenty Road Area. This illustrates how close by all modes of transportation are.

I feel that the Hamilton Planning and Economic development has not dealt with the Twenty Road Area in a fair and unbiased manner. Their use of special policy B in the Rural Plan to offer special treatment to Elfrida was defeated by the province so, they then preceded to use “The Future Urban Boundary Expansion Policy” to accomplish the same results. This week at a public meeting on Hamilton’s Urban Plan, a Private Planner for the Twenty Road Group expressed the opinion that to commit to this Policy, at this time when no urban expansion is necessary is not only bad planning for Hamilton, but bad planning anywhere. By committing at this time to Future Urban Expansion for Elfrida but not to Twenty Road East, the Present Council will have ruled at this time in favour of Elfrida and removed any hope of the Twenty Road East Area receiving fair treatment at the 5 year Comprehensive Review Process. This also sends the wrong message that anyone wishing to do business in Hamilton cannot trust the Hamilton Planning and Economic Development Deptment to act with fairness and accountability with there history of using unconventional policies to prevent change from the status quo. In turn this will lead to more costly OMB hearings for the City of Hamilton to defend.

Also at yesterday’s meeting some Councillors on the Planning Committee showed that they were more concerned about offending planning staff than doing what is best for Hamilton for the next 25 years. If Hamilton City Council is not able to find a satisfactory solution to this flaw in Grids then the obvious hole (Twenty Road Area) in the Grids Map will serve as a symbol that Hamilton City Hall does not treat everyone fairly and equally. This will also verify that the professor at a Leading Business University in Ontario was at least partially correct when he advised graduating business
students not to set up a business in Hamilton. If we are to change this image of Hamilton then the Mayor and each Councillor have to be prepared to make the tough decisions to do it. Now is a good time to start by doing what is right and proper by voting that “No Urban Future Boundary is necessary at this time”. This will demonstrate that there is fairness and equality at City Hall. These are the values this city must be built on if the expectations of the people of Hamilton are to be achieved in the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tom Nugent

cc. Mayor Fred Eisenberger, City of Hamilton Councillors, Kevin Christenson (Hamilton City Clerk), Tim McCabe (Hamilton Planning Department), Michael Fenn (CEO of Metrolinx), Rob MacIsaac (Chair of Metrolinx), Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.