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City of Cambridge
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Cambridge, ON N1R 8S1

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RE: Affordable Housing over Parking

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of Beyond Housing, a Waterloo Region based non-profit that develops and operates affordable housing, I am pleased to offer my support for Councillor Hamilton's motion to explore the potential for affordable housing to be built above city-owned parking lots.

We are in the midst of a housing crisis. It is incumbent on all of us, whether citizens, governments, the private sector, or the non-profit sector, to explore all options that might be part of the solution. The City of Cambridge is well-positioned to take a leadership role, and the housing over city-owned parking lots concept is just one example of where that leadership might help to reveal an option that could be replicated across Canada.

The motion before you is to investigate a possibility, simply that. Without this exploration of the concept, we will never know if it is viable, and if so, how it might be implemented. As Wayne Gretzky famously said, "*You miss 100% of the shots you don't take*". In the interest of leaving no rock unturned as we collectively try to address the urgent need for affordable housing, I strongly encourage and invite you to take a low-risk shot on something that could potentially be a game changer.

Sincerely,

Dan Driedger
Executive Director