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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 9:43 AM

To: Council <CouncilDistribution@courtenay.ca>

Cc: Garbutt, Geoff <ggarbutt@courtenay.ca>; Guillo, Anne <aguillo@courtenay.ca>

Subject: Annual report comments

Good morning,

Thanks to Wendy Morin for sharing the draft 2023 report on FB. Good work.

I have some comments.

1. Housing starts - These were down significantly last year. Although the report notes that #'s are reflected in the year of completion, since this is one of your top priorities, I suggest a short explanation be added, e.g., something like 'The low number of new units completed in 2023 is a result of the economic conditions in the preceding years, including high interest borrowing rates, higher material and labour costs'.
2. By Law enforcement - I am big fan of fines over the 'hug it out' approach. Financial penalties are a big impetus to change behavior.
3. Fire Dept stats - biggest call out was for open burns. This has a big impact on air quality, community safety and the environment. It is hard to argue people shouldn't have wood burning heat when we see open burns occurring regularly and without consequences. I sure hope fines were issued to repeat offenders. This is a revenue stream that will offset the call out costs.
4. Permissive tax exemptions - This City policy needs to be reviewed to ensure that any organization receiving an exemption has clearly demonstrated that they have made a material contribution to the City. Giving tax exemptions to organizations means that the rest of the community (that means people on fixed income one, seniors, hardworking families) are subsidizing these organizations and their activities. I want to see proof that these groups, especially in the case of religious groups, have made a tangible contribution through services such as shelter, meals, to our City. And, that the values of these groups align with those of the City. I do not want my tax dollars subsidizing organizations that are racists, bigots, anti LGBTQ, anti SOGI, anti UNDRIP. Why did Aaron Ministries get a tax exemption last year, as I thought you voted against this?
5. Please add photo captions to all photos, this helps people know their city better.

Thanks for all your hard work and considering my comments.

[REDACTED]