

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Correspondence to City Council

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

From: Joshua Weresch

Sent: March-20-18 11:32 AM

To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>

Subject: RE: Correspondence to City Council

Dear Clerk:

Good evening. I hope this finds you well. Please include my letter, as amended below, as correspondence to all councillors for both the upcoming General Issues committee's meeting on Wednesday, March 21st and the next civic council meeting on Wednesday, March 28th, 2018 at 5 p.m. and please make it available for public perusal on the city website's public agenda for that meeting. Thanks very much for your time and attention in these regards; I look forward to your reply.

Take care,

Joshua Weresch

Is there 'zero tolerance' for systemic violence, too?

Re: Hamilton councillors approve zero tolerance for violence in wake of Locke St vandalism (9 Mar)

[<https://www.hamiltonnews.com/news-story/8317315-hamilton-councillors-approve-zero-tolerance-for-violence-in-wake-of-locke-st-vandalism/>]

I was grateful to see Hamiltonians, churches, and places of worship collecting money to repair The Tower's vandalism as well as Locke and Ottawa Streets' businesses. I was less grateful to read the language that city councillors used to describe the anarchists whose actions will only increase the presence of police and private and public surveillance cameras; if there are Councillor Jackson's 'faceless, gutless cowards', Mayor Eisenberger's 'terrorist gang', and Councillor Whitehead's 'wastes of skin' around the city, as quoted in Kevin Werner's article of 8 March 2018 in the Hamilton News, the dialogue that needs to happen will never begin if we refuse to see one another as equally human, worthy of respect and response. It is worth recalling that all the angry words projected toward anarchists can also be directed by the poor in this city toward the rich. When the Hamilton and District Apartment Association and Hamilton-Halton Home Builders' Association elect to build condominiums for the rich instead of rental units for the poor, that is a violent act. When supermarkets are not built in poor neighbourhoods, that, too, is violent. When rents are not frozen, violence is there, too. While we decry property violence and fear on Locke Street, we cannot be silent about systemic violence that robs the poorest of food, water, and shelter.