

Pilon, Janet

From: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE: City Manager Meeting

From: Deanna Allain
Sent: February-11-19 8:33 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca; Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Collins, Chad <Chad.Collins@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Danko, John-Paul <John-Paul.Danko@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; Pearson, Maria <Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca>; Johnson, Brenda <Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca>; VanderBeek, Arlene <Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>; Ferguson, Lloyd <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>; Whitehead, Terry <Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca>; Partridge, Judi <Judi.Partridge@hamilton.ca>; Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>
Cc: Samantha Craggs - CBC <samantha.craggs@cbc.ca>; Matthew Van Dongen <mvandongen@thespec.com>; Joey Coleman <joey@joeycoleman.ca>; tips@chch.com; Gail Granlund - Cable14 <gail@cable14.com>; James McMillan <jmcmillan@cable14.com>; broadconvos@gmail.com; managing@thesil.ca; emily.orourke@thesil.ca; kwerner@hamiltonnews.com
Subject: COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE: City Manager Meeting

Hello City Clerk, Mr. Mayor, and Members of City Council,

Please find attached the written form of my delegation which the City of Hamilton City Manager Recruitment Steering Committee declined to hear this past Saturday, February 9th, 2019. **I am formally submitting this email and attached document as correspondence for the upcoming City Council meeting on Wednesday, February 13th.**

Though it was not in front of the committee, a video of my public delegation, along with the delegations of two others who wished to speak on Saturday, can be found here: https://www.facebook.com/deanna.allain.5/videos/1004972616379338/?hc_ref=ART1W_ctJ4PLwXL7ZC4lpMZKy4XBPo5dp7kxl4-70PcYA96rrQOHtpJZcewzWAp7B0M

Thank you,
Deanna Allain

Hello Mr. Mayor and members of Council,

My name is Deanna Allain, I am a lifelong Hamiltonian and passionate member of many communities across our city, particularly around my home on the mountain. I am a strong advocate for many things, including transit, poverty reduction, and affordable housing, but today I am not here to discuss these things.

I am here today, at White Oaks Resort and Spa in Niagara-on-the-Lake, or I was before we were denied access, to speak about accountability, transparency, accessibility, and democratic principle respecting the recruitment and hiring process of our next City Manager.

First and foremost, I would like to reiterate that my attendance, in addition to the attendance of fellow advocates here today, bears no threat to the in camera and confidential elements of today's meeting, and is not intended to in any way disrupt the processes of a formal public meeting. I travelled to Niagara-on-the-Lake today with the intention of attending all public elements of this public meeting, and I did seek approval to speak before you all today in the form of a delegation, which was declined.

I do have several concerns to raise with you about the decisions made respecting this meeting being organized.

Why is Hamilton City Council holding a public meeting outside of the boundaries of the City of Hamilton, 66 kilometres away from City Hall itself? Were council chambers, community centres, public and private spaces all booked? As a committee, are you all comfortable with the expenses of this room rental, mileage, food, potentially overnight accommodations, and staff pay being covered by the City of Hamilton?

I would also like to bring to your attention that this meeting was impossible to arrive to on time using public transit. When taking the earliest possible buses this morning, I arrived within walking distance of this building at 9:00am. The morning of Friday, February 8th, the City of Hamilton changed this committee meeting start time to 8:30am, meaning I would not be able to help arriving well over 30 minutes late to this meeting. Recognizing that the public elements of this meeting are expected to be only when the meeting is called to order and when it is adjourned, this meant that I knew I would be arriving to this meeting when it was already in camera. It is incredibly disappointing, not only that the timing of the meeting made it impossible to arrive on time using transit, but also that the City of Hamilton changed the listed start time of this meeting from 9:00am to 8:30am without publicly notifying residents of the change, and only made this change less than 48 hours before the meeting would begin.

I would like to further call to your attention that this committee was formed in the last term of Council, but did not hire a new City Manager prior to the election. This resulted in a committee comprised of only incumbents making decisions on who Hamilton's next City Manager would be in this new term of Council with newly elected representatives. Councillor Nann put forth a motion calling for the hiring process to be halted, which members of Council voted down, and Councillor Wilson has a motion being brought forward at the upcoming City Council meeting. Councillor Wilson's motion calls for a redefinition of the recruitment procedure, calls for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion lenses to be used throughout the process, and that the committee be reformed to reflect "not less than 50% of those elected members who identify as females along with not less than one-third of the newly elected members of City Council."

I wholeheartedly support the efforts made by Councillors Nann, Wilson, and Danko to pause the hiring process briefly. I urge all of Council to support Councillor Wilson's motion being presented to ensure that our newly elected council uphold and maintain the integrity, transparency, and accountability needed to successfully complete this hiring process in the best interest of our city.

I was born and raised in Hamilton, and am now in my first year attending McMaster University. The decisions made by our members of Hamilton City Council, especially this decision on how the hiring process will occur, is going to impact myself and many others for decades to come. Now more than ever it is essential to engage in such important processes with upmost focus on upholding accountability and democratic practices. This can be achieved by ensuring all public meetings are as accessible to the public as possible, and that a call for public delegations like these occur so that you may hear directly from concerned citizens what we feel needs to be changed in this hiring practice.

I am deeply disappointed that this delegation could not be spoken in front of the City of Hamilton City Manager Recruitment Steering Committee Meeting. My statement today will be submitted formally as correspondence for the upcoming Council meeting. I trust that although the committee did not want to hear from myself or other advocates here today, that the message we send by being here today will speak for itself.