

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Why did it take over 3 weeks for you to acknowledge the pain and fear of the queer community in the city you lead?

From: Alix MacLean

Sent: July 9, 2019 12:16 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Why did it take over 3 weeks for you to acknowledge the pain and fear of the queer community in the city you lead?

Mayor Eisenberger,

I continue to be disappointed in the city's approach to this crisis. I'm sure you're hoping that the outrage will die down and go away soon. You took far too long to do the basic decent human thing and acknowledge that a vulnerable community targeted with violence and bigotry was hurting and living in fear.

None of these fears will be allayed by criminalizing dissent. The current plan to stop hate on city property does not protect anyone, but leaves many people vulnerable to police harassment.

I have to wonder who is advising you on these issues. Your attempt to separate the community into "good queers" like Deidre Pike and "bad queers" like Cedar Hopperton is failing. The terrible handling of this situation by the city and the Hamilton police has made Hopperton into a much more sympathetic character than was necessary, but that is on you.

Your comments about supporting the police no matter what are absolutely ludicrous. Police forces everywhere need as much civilian oversight as is legally possible or they will abuse their power. Individual officers may well be good people, but as a group, given unchecked power and limited oversight, they will not serve the whole community.

I want to see more diverse people with an understanding of marginalized communities' concerns on the police board.

Hamilton has an opportunity to be a leader in the fight against bigotry and racism, but is currently revealing itself to be a reactionary, dangerous city for marginalized people. I expected more from this city.

Alix MacLean

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