

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Victory gardens 2020

From: Edgar Rogalski

Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 9:57 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Fwd: Fwd: RE: Victory gardens 2020

Andrea Holland, City Clerk, City of Hamilton:

Below is a letter I addressed to my Ward 8 Councillor about the urgency of allowing Victory Gardens to safely grow food for the Food Banks this growing season. Mr. Danko urged me to contact you (see below) to ask Mayor Eisenberger to put this matter on the agenda to request the province to allow community gardens to open. Technically we are NOT a community garden but a non profit supplier of produce to the Food Banks.. Please consider following the protocol for this request.. thank you...Edgar Rogalski (Victory Gardens volunteer)

I am an 8 year volunteer for Victory Gardens who is looking forward to growing food for food banks in Hamilton. Currently we have 12 gardens and 661 raised beds. We have grown and delivered over 230,000 lbs of food to food banks since 2011.

We have been banned from growing food for the food banks during the COV 19 pandemic yet the needy still need to eat. Fresh produce enhances a healthy diet which keeps people healthier.

Food production has been declared an essential service by the federal government yet we are told that the province had banned all community gardens and we are told that we fall under that category.

I volunteer at Macassa on the mountain and I was told that we cannot even set foot on the property. I fail to fathom how our work outside of the facility endangers the health of the seniors inside! We do not have to enter the building, we only have a few volunteers at a time and we can easily keep a two metres distance.

All the volunteers are very responsible, our plants growing in a greenhouse and will be ready for planting by mid May.

I am sure that all volunteers are willing to accept strict guidelines to assure that food for food banks will be grown and delivered responsibly. I urge our City councillors to lift the ill conceived ban on our Gardens.

Thank you

Edgar Rogalski, (Ward 8)

Hello Edgar,

I completely agree that community gardens should be declared essential – what is more essential than food!?

It would not be difficult to maintain physical distancing for a community garden – however, this is a Provincial designation that the City must follow.

There has been some discussion on a request for the City to ask the Province to re-consider, but ultimately it is their decision. I also understand that there is a petition to the Province requesting this as well.

I would suggest that you and as many likeminded residents as you can get email the Clerk clerk@hamilton.ca and ask that Mayor Eisenberger on behalf of Hamilton City Council request the Province to consider community gardens an essential activity to allow for local production of food – and ask that your email be included on the agenda for our next virtual council meeting (we now meet every Wednesday).

That way, I will have a way to address this with council.

John-Paul Danko
Councillor Ward 8
West Central Mountain
Hamilton, Ontario

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905.521.3954

From: Edgar Rogalski
Sent: April 14, 2020 11:54 AM
To: Danko, John-Paul <John-Paul.Danko@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Victory gardens 2020

Mr. John-Paul Danko, Councillor Ward *