

Pilon, Janet

Subject: COVID-19 waste on our streets!

From: **Todd Ouellette**

Date: Wed., Jul. 22, 2020, 9:45 p.m.

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To: Merulla, Sam <sam.merulla@hamilton.ca>, <jason.farr@hamilton.ca>, <maureen.wilson@hamilton.ca>, <nrinder.nann@hamilton.ca>, <chad.collins@hamilton.ca>, <tom.jackson@hamilton.ca>, <esther.pauls@hamilton.ca>, <ward8@hamilton.ca>, <brad.clark@hamilton.ca>, <maria.pearson@hamilton.ca>, <brenda.johnson@hamilton.ca>, <lloyd.ferguson@hamilton.ca>, <arlene.vanderbeek@hamilton.ca>, <terry.whitehead@hamilton.ca>, <judi.partridge@hamilton.ca>, <news@thespec.com>, <News@900chml.com>, <mayor@hamilton.ca>

Dear Councilor Merulla, Mayor Eisenberger, and other City officials

CC: The Hamilton Spectator, CHML News

I am writing to you today with a disturbing trend that I've noticed over the last few weeks and possibly worse now that the Mask Bylaw has come into force.

There is an unprecedented increase in medical waste being littered on our streets. Most notably surgical masks and disposable gloves. On a recent outing to the Metro Grocery Store in Centre mall, I counted 3 surgical masks and 2 disposable gloves discarded in the parking lot (July 21 2020).

According to the Premier, this Virus constitutes a "Danger of major Proportions".

We are dealing with a Novel virus that is deadlier than anything we have ever seen in our lifetimes!

My concern is that children may pick up this waste and play with it, chew on it, etc. Seniors may step on it and inadvertently bring the Virus into their homes or Long-Term Care facilities. Homeless people may be looking for scraps to eat and rooting through garbage cans and encountering improperly disposed of used masks, and lastly, untrained cleaning staff may encounter this waste and not dispose of it properly. All of these vectors could spread the virus in our community. These are very serious concerns that I have!

Based on the evidence from PHC and our own Health Unit, I would like to know what steps the City is taking to deal with this?

- 1) Is the City sending out Qualified teams to pick up this Biohazard material in a safe manner and dispose of it properly? If so, will you enact special Phone lines/Web Sites for people to report it to those teams?
- 2) Is the City training these people or are you outsourcing this to a private company? If so, what will be the cost to the Taxpayer? (see below for an example)
- 3) Will the city be placing proper PPE disposal Units at Intersections and other key points to facilitate public safety (see below)? What would be the projected cost to properly protect Hamiltonians?

The Citizens of this community really need answers to these questions. I appreciate your time and look forward to your response.

Regards

Todd Ouellette

Ward 4

This picture was taken at Centre Mall on Tuesday July 21 2020



"We are facing an unprecedented time in our history," said Premier Ford. "This is a decision that was not made lightly. COVID-19 constitutes a danger of major proportions. We are taking this extraordinary measure because we must offer our full support and every power possible to help our health care sector fight the spread of COVID-19. The health and wellbeing of every Ontarian must be our number one priority."

<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/03/ontario-enacts-declaration-of-emergency-to-protect-the-public.html>

Infectious diseases and other hazardous bacteria, such as the COVID-19 virus, can survive on various surfaces for extended periods of time which is why it is important to contain and remove any used (and possibly contaminated) PPE from your workplace.

<https://gicmd.com/services/personal-protective-equipment-ppe-disposal/>

<https://www.kingsley.com/outdoor-depositories/ppe-collection-bins.html>

PPE Collection

With current PPE shortages, many hospitals are looking to stretch their limited supply via re-sanitation. Whether you're looking for a way to collect your PPE, or way to discard the various bulky items, the CollectionPoint PPE Collection Depositories will take it all. The 9-3/4" by 18" opening makes it perfect for accepting various bulky items including masks, gloves, gowns, and face shields. These units are suitable for use both indoor and outdoor use so you can station them wherever your response team needs it the most.

