

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Homeless encampments

From: Elizabeth Seidl

Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020, 9:13 AM

To: 'Mayor@hamilton.ca'; Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca

Cc: hclc.cjch@gmail.com; info@keepingsix.org; info@hamsmart.ca

Subject: Homeless encampments

Good morning,

I'm writing to you because I'm concerned about the City of Hamilton's intentions to remove homeless encampments. I would like to ask that the city does not dismantle homeless encampments and instead provide interim and permanent housing for encampment residents with necessary supports.

I would like the city to prioritize individuals experiencing homelessness for urgent housing placement and engage encampment residents in assessing their needs.

I would like to see that the city remove barriers in shelters and hotels in order to accommodate the individual needs of encampment residents and allow for sanctioned encampment sites and/or designate specific parks/public lands where individuals are allowed to set up tents/temporary structures.

I would like to see that the city allow for a streamlined, low-barrier, accessible process of issuing permits allowing for tents and temporary structures.

Dismantling homeless encampments will cause harm to encampment residents and this harm is heightened by the current pandemic. I would like to see the city take a holistic, humane and reasoned approach to encampments.

Thank you for your time,

Elizabeth Seidl