

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Please do not dissemble encampments!

**From:** [MADISON BROCKBANK](#)

**Sent:** July 29, 2020 1:05 PM

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**Subject:** Please do not dissemble encampments!

Good afternoon:

I hope this email finds you well!

My name is Maddie Brockbank and I am a resident of Ward 11. I am emailing to demand that the city of Hamilton cancel their plans to dissemble encampments at the First Ontario centre and Ferguson Street. As a social worker who has worked with homeless, street-involved, and at-risks folks in Hamilton, these encampments are providing a necessary, immediate solution to a much larger issue around homelessness in Hamilton, limited shelter space, unaffordable housing, and the continued stigmatization and criminalization of homelessness. Dismantling homeless encampments will cause harm to encampment residents and this harm is heightened by the current pandemic.

I, and many others, are demanding the following:

- 1) The City must not dismantle homeless encampments
- 2) The City must provide interim and permanent housing for encampment residents with necessary supports
- 3) The City must prioritize individuals experiencing homelessness for urgent housing placement
- 4) The City must engage encampment residents in assessing their needs prior to dismantling
- 5) The City must remove barriers in shelters and hotels in order to accommodate the individual needs of encampment residents
- 6) The City must allow for sanctioned encampment sites and/or designate specific parks/public lands where individuals are allowed to set up tents/temporary structures
- 7) The City must allow for a streamlined, low-barrier, accessible process of issuing permits allowing for tents and temporary structures

I stand with the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, Keeping Six, HAMSMaRT, Wade Poziomka, and those fighting to ensure the most marginalized and vulnerable in Hamilton are protected by their local representatives.

Thank you for your consideration and action in advance!

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**Maddie Brockbank** [she/her]

H.BSW, MSW (c)