

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Reconsider Dismantling Encampments on July 31st

From: **Carly Van Egdorn**

Date: Wed, Jul 29, 2020 at 1:44 PM

Subject: Reconsider Dismantling Encampments on July 31st

To: <ward1@hamilton.ca>

CC: <hclc.cich@gmail.com>, Keeping Six <info@keepingsix.org>, <info@hamsmart.ca>

Hi Councillor Wilson,

I am writing to you regarding the news that City of Hamilton staff are planning to dismantle the encampments at the First Ontario Centre and Ferguson Street on July 31, 2020.

Dismantling encampments without access to stable and acceptable housing for encampment residents will further marginalize this population - and will cause harm to the residents, which is exacerbated by the current pandemic. As a Ward One resident, I have noticed that you - as my city councillor - are often aligned with efforts to prioritize and advocate for the human rights of marginalized communities. I ask that you speak up on this issue and advocate for the following:

1. The City not dismantle homeless encampments
2. The City provide interim and permanent housing for encampment residents with necessary supports
3. The City prioritize individuals experiencing homelessness for urgent housing placement
4. The City engage encampment residents in assessing their needs prior to dismantling
5. The City remove barriers in shelters and hotels in order to accommodate the individual needs of encampment residents
6. The City 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 allow for a streamlined, low-barrier, accessible process of issuing permits allowing for tents and temporary structures

Dismantling encampments is against all current public health recommendations and the decision to dismantle is harmful, unethical and damaging to this community. This "not in my backyard" approach is antithetical to the Hamilton I love - a community which is inclusive and understanding of all. Please - use your position on city council to ask all relevant parties to reconsider this decision.

Best,
Carly Eisbrenner