

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Encampment Dismantling Concerns

From: **Gurinder Sandhu**

Date: Wed, Jul 29, 2020 at 2:48 PM

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To: <[jason.farr@hamilton.ca](mailto:jason.farr@hamilton.ca)>

CC: <[info@keepingsix.org](mailto:info@keepingsix.org)>, <[info@hamsmart.ca](mailto:info@hamsmart.ca)>

Hello Councillor Farr,

I understand that the Hamilton city staff plan on dismantling the encampments at Ferguson Street and First Ontario Centre and I would love to voice my concern and outrage at this decision. As a resident of Hamilton and Ward 2, I recognize that the needs of residents of the city lacking adequate housing are not currently being met. I cannot voice strongly enough how counterproductive a move to dismantle these encampments would be to accomplishing that end.

I ask you to please represent your constituents and their concerns by voicing opposition to this barbaric proposed action. I certainly can understand the need to enforce by-laws, but I ask you to consider; what other alternatives are the residents of these encampments left with? If the city's goal is to eliminate these encampments, the means to do so MUST be targeted towards providing priority access to housing for these individuals rather than pushing them further into desperation. The city must engage in discussions with these residents to understand the challenges they are currently facing and equip them to be able to face these challenges as we move forward.

Removing barriers from accessing shelters and hotels must be a priority in the midterm to secure shelter for these residents while the city works to create a more long term solution. If the city is unable to secure housing for these residents, please consider sanctioning designated areas of public parks or city land for these encampments. Please expedite the process of issuing permits allowing for tents and temporary structures.

I stand with my fellow Hamiltonians and I hope that you will do the same.

Thank you,

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Gurinder Sandhu