

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Stop dismantling the encampments

From: **Cassandra Roach**

Date: Wed, Jul 29, 2020, 2:15 PM

Subject: Stop dismantling the encampments

To: <jason.farr@hamilton.ca>, <mayor@hamilton.ca>

Cc: <hclc.cjch@gmail.com>, <info@keepingsix.org>, <info@hamsmart.ca>

Hi Jason,

I have emailed you in the past about encampments, urging you and the city to reconsider your decision to dismantle the encampment in Jackie Washington Park. You responded telling me that each person who is homeless has unique needs and that the city has been successful in finding adequate housing for other folks living in encampments. As encampments proliferate, I question your definition of the word "success." It seems to me that this is a cycle that continues to repeat and repeat until something changes. I urge you to again reconsider breaking up the encampments on Ferguson and at First Ontario, so as to stop this cycle and actually address the unique needs of each individual. So I am standing with Keeping Six, HAMSMaRT, and the HCLC and calling on:

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

Do not evict people from their homes.

Sincerely,

Cassandra Roach