

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Against Dismantling Homeless Encampments

From: Karen Schulman Dupuis

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Date: July 29, 2020 at 12:53:13 PM EDT

To: Arlene VanderBeek <arlene.vanderbeek@hamilton.ca>

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It's come to my attention the City Council is intending to move forward with dismantling the homeless encampments, without any plans in place to ensure the safety and security of our city's most at-risk citizens.

I ask that City Council do the following:

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

My thanks to The Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, Keeping Six and HAMSMaRT for their ongoing education and advocacy.

Karen Schulman Dupuis, MA [She/Her]