

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Homeless Encampments

From: **Agnes Orban**

Date: Thu, Jul 30, 2020 at 5:12 PM

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To: <tom.jackson@hamilton.ca>

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

Councillor Jackson,

As a Ward 6 constituent, I would like to express my opinion that the city should NOT dismantle homeless encampments. As much as I would like to see them gone, dismantling encampments does not deal with the root of the problem. It is important that the root issues leading to homelessness be addressed. Those experiencing homelessness don't disappear just because they are forced out of a particular area, which makes the dismantling of the encampments a waste of taxpayer dollars. This money, and council time, would be much better utilized working towards eradicating homelessness.

In the meantime I, along with many others, am asking 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

Sincerely,
Agnes Orban