

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Statement Against Planned Dismantling of Homeless Encampments

From: **Rachel Weldrick**

Date: Wed, Jul 29, 2020 at 1:13 PM

Subject: Statement Against Planned Dismantling of Homeless Encampments

To: <nrinder.nann@hamilton.ca>

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

Good afternoon Councillor Nann,

I am writing to you this afternoon to express great concern over the planned dismantling of the homeless encampments located at First Ontario Centre and Ferguson Street. **I do not support the dismantling of these encampments.** This action has the potential to significantly harm vulnerable citizens who are likely already experiencing accumulated disadvantage and inequities as a result of Covid-19.

As per the leadership of several community organizations (cc'ed), I am urgently requesting that:

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

Thank you for your time and ongoing leadership.

Rachel Weldrick & John Dowbiggin (Residents of Ward 3)