

**Pilon, Janet**

---

**Subject:** August 21st Council meeting

**From:** michelle hruschka

**Sent:** August 7, 2020 9:04 AM

**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

**Subject:** August 21st Council meeting

Good day to all participants:

I am writing because I am deeply concerned of the growing human tragedy in our streets, the homeless population which have had to endure inhuman conditions throughout this pandemic.

I have made a submission to the ECS meeting to be held on August 17, 2020.

I have spoken with my councillor Maureen Wilson on this issue. I am thankful, she allotted time for me to express my views. I feel it was a good conversation and i hope and pray she will consider all things to arrive at a wise decision.

I have emailed several councillor in an effort to implant the concept of city council setting up a designated area, a safe space, for the homeless to set up. I feel city council has a duty and responsibility to protect vulnerable communities.

I stand in solidarity with Dr Tim O'Shea on his medical recommendation, not to dismantle the camps. He is an expert in his field and his recommendation should be given weight.

I stand in solidarity with Keeping Six who work closely with Dr Jill Wiwcharuk. She is a medical professional who is to be commended for her effort to protect the homeless and care for their needs. In no way, should Keeping Six be admonished for doing the right thing.

I have been advocating for building little houses for the homeless. You can research the article written by Laura Booth, in The Record, published June 14, 2020. In researching tent cities, I came across Dignity Village in Oregon which has been fairly successful, they also built little houses. Emma Cubitt, a local architect, has been advocating for little houses in lane ways. She feels building little houses for the homeless is positive.

In setting up a designated area, it allows for medical professionals access in order to assess needs. It allows for social distancing. It allows for community to drop off food and other items safely as to not spread Covid 19. It keeps the homeless community safe and greater community safe. You need to envision a space that will work toward a healing process, where the homeless can recapture lost skills, to make them feel worthy and that they can be part of community. This is in direct opposition to the current model, I call the hamster wheel of despair. Engaging the homeless to develop talking or healing circles, is positive as those going through similar events can learn and appreciate the emotional support they can give each other.

I am very concerned of the on air messaging, coming from a couple of the councillors. I feel it is their tactic to create histrionics, it is political rhetoric that's contributes nothing to a healing process. It speaks of individual councillor's intolerance and lack of actual experience to navigate the hamster wheel of despair.

As the moratorium on rent ends under Bill 184, the coming of the wind down of the CERB. The homeless population is going to grow exponentially.

The proposed plan of giving \$400,000 to the Starvation Army to build shelter capacity that many of the homeless population cannot use and giving millions to create drop in centers, is not addressing homelessness, period. It is a waste of valuable resources to keep doing the same format which is no longer working.

With the kerfuffle of the We charity coming into the light, it allows for the greater community to question those charities who receive huge amounts of public dollars that the public has no oversight or have the ability to offer input as to how those monies are being spent.

Are you familiar with the Peterloo Massacre, which occurred August 16, 1819? Are you familiar with the poem, The Masque of Anarchy written by Percy Shelley which memorialized that event? The analogy is that sending in police to dismantle camps is no different than sending in the cavalry with sabers swinging, which is what happened back then.

The inequality that existed then still exists today even though 200 years have gone by. It is the indifference of the ruling class that has led to so much suffering. The more things change the more they remain the same.

To quote the last line of the poem

Ye are many, they are few!

Respectively

Michelle Hruschka