

Pilon, Janet

Subject: URGENT: Homeless Encampments

From: **Marin Hudson**

Date: Wed, Jul 29, 2020 at 11:13 PM

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To: <nrinder.nann@hamilton.ca>, Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Nrinder Nann <ward3@hamilton.ca>, <mayor@hamilton.ca>

Dear Mayor and Councillor Nann,

I am writing to you this evening to urge the City of Hamilton NOT to dismantle homeless encampments without proper housing and supports for our homeless population.

The City must CHOOSE to prioritize individuals experiencing homelessness in our city and find a way to engage these residents to determine how we can best support them. We must prioritize these residents for urgent housing and remove barriers in shelters and hotels to accommodate the needs of our community.

I urge the City to create designated encampment sites in our parks or on public lands where individuals may be allowed to set up tents and temporary housing. Leaving our homeless residents without a safe place to live is *not* an option. We must take care of our people and our community by creating safe spaces for individuals experiencing homelessness.

We are in the middle of a pandemic, and it is hard for those of us with safe homes, let alone our residents who are living on our streets. We must create a low-barrier, accessible process for the issuing of tent and temporary structure permits, and support the people who need these resources.

Dismantling homeless encampments will cause **harm** to our residents — residents who are already facing many more challenges than you or I. It is our responsibility as members of our community to support those who need us most, and to find safe ways for these individuals to live within our community.

It is time you step up, Mayor Eisenberger, and do what is right for all members of our community.

Thank you and good night,

Marin Hudson

Hamilton Resident, Ward 3