

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Rail Trail Encampment, Temp Mens Shelter

From: Stephen Butson

Sent: July 21, 2020 11:51 AM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Fwd: Rail Trail Encampment, Temp Mens Shelter

Dear Mayor's Office,

Please see below letter we have send to Ward 3 office. Some of my fellow neighbours on East Ave South have also written to you about our concern of the growing number of homeless, halfway houses, shelters in our neighborhood; the density is becoming too much for this area and another solution needs to be found.

Thankyou ,

Stephen Butson

Begin forwarded message:

From: Stephen Butson

Date: July 14, 2020 at 9:09:47 PM EDT

To: "nrinder.nann@hamilton.ca" <nrinder.nann@hamilton.ca>, "Ward3@Hamilton.ca" <Ward3@Hamilton.ca>, "Daniela.Giulietti@hamilton.ca" <Daniela.Giulietti@hamilton.ca>

Cc: Kazue Suzuki

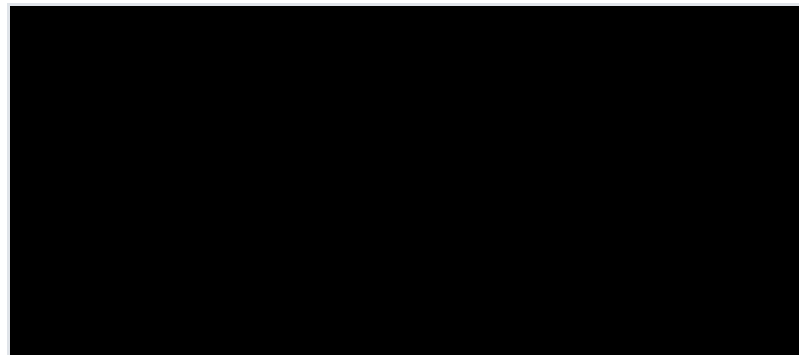
Subject: Rail Trail Encampment, Temp Mens Shelter

Reply-To: Stephen Butson

Hello Narinder, Daniela, Amy

After reading the Hamilton Spectator article below, we and many neighbours are disappointed with this situation.

[Homelessness: Hamilton advocates urge city to let encampments be](#)



Homelessness: Hamilton advocates urge city to let encampments be

Breaking up tent clusters severs ties with outreach and health workers, contingent tells city councillors

The density of long-term care homes, halfway houses, and now temporary men's shelter at Cathedral School in the Stinson neighbourhood is pushing the limits. We

already put up with garbage, cursing, yelling, residents threatening each other at the Victoria Manors.

We do not want an encampment on the Rail Trail above us. We use this trail daily, as do many Stinson residents, and previously some tents & stolen bicycles, garbage, and clothes were strewn on sections of the path. This makes it feel unstable and not safe for single women especially. It the only recreational trail in the area.

I am well aware that there is a housing crisis and feel lucky enough to be a home owner finally, but having encampments in a neighbourhood with a lot of potential is going to drag us down. Moving these encampments from downtown areas to residential neighbourhoods is not the answer. Obviously, assisted housing plans eventually for these people will be the long term answer and necessary in cold weather. For now, city properties, school properties, sports stadiums, possibly park land or dedicated land closer to the lake would be safer for all and more appropriate. Sanctioned encampments (as mentioned above) for now sound good but in the right location; not a quiet residential area.

We have high hopes for Hamilton and want to contribute to its positive growth and to the Stinson neighbourhood. My wife does volunteer Yoga classes at Good Shepard for the last year.

Encampments on the Rail Trail/Radial Trail/Bruce Trail should not be encouraged.

Already some good neighbours have talked about moving because of all of the above; one of them has now listed their house for sale at 111 Victoria. We don't need to lose the constructive people in the neighbourhood who are improving it.

I think if this continues it will definitely become a voting issue and I'm sure you'll be hearing from many more in Stinson. Please don't let these issues progress and let the neighbourhood slide any more.

Sincerely,

Stephen Butson & Kazue Suzuki