

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** The need for safe alternatives to encampments

**From:** Jenn Cross

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**Date:** July 30, 2020 at 9:39:24 AM EDT

**To:** Maureen Wilson <[maureen.wilson@hamilton.ca](mailto:maureen.wilson@hamilton.ca)>

**Cc:** [hclc.cjch@gmail.com](mailto:hclc.cjch@gmail.com), [info@keepingsix.org](mailto:info@keepingsix.org), [info@hamsmart.ca](mailto:info@hamsmart.ca)

Dear Councillor Wilson,

I am one of your constituents living in Ainslie Wood. I am writing to oppose the City's plan to dismantle homeless encampments outside of the First Ontario Centre and on Ferguson Street.

The people living in these encampments have nowhere else to go. Before removing the encampments, the City must provide them with streamlined interim and permanent housing options that are safe and accessible, including publicly sanctioned encampment sites where individuals can set up temporary structures. Until the inhabitants of these encampments have a safe place to go, I urge you to pressure the City against displacing them. We must take a holistic, compassionate and reasoned approach to these encampments, especially in the midst of the pandemic.

Sincerely,

Jenn Cross