

Pilon, Janet

Subject: In Opposition to Dismantling Encampments

From: **Sienna DiGiuseppe**

Date: Wed., Jul. 29, 2020, 3:26 p.m.

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To: <jason.farr@hamilton.ca>

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

Hello Councillor Farr,

My name is Sienna DiGiuseppe and I am a community member who has lived in Ward 2 since 2018. I learned today that the City intends to dismantle the encampments at First Ontario Centre and Ferguson Street. Furthermore, I learned that you have put your full support behind this measure.

As a Ward 2 constituent, I am incredibly disappointed to see your endorsement for an action that does not provide appropriate alternative interim supports. While these encampments are not long-term housing solutions, to dismantle them without adequate plans for access to safe indoor spaces is sure to lead to detrimental health outcomes.

This action is being taken without apparent consideration to the concerns raised by people without access to safe and affordable housing and their advocates on the front lines who have been providing support throughout the pandemic.

I add my voice in supporting the demands of the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, which include 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

I hope that you will reconsider with empathy your support of this measure. I also trust that this email will be counted in a growing folder of residents who oppose this reckless move that endangers the health and wellbeing of our fellow Hamiltonians.

Sincerely,
Sienna DiGiuseppe