

**Pilon, Janet**

---

**Subject:** Proposed forcible transfer of Hamiltonians

**From:** Craig Burley

**Sent:** July 30, 2020 12:17 AM

**To:** Wilson, Maureen <[Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca](mailto:Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca)>; [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

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

**Subject:** Proposed forcible transfer of Hamiltonians

Dear Councillor Wilson,

[Note: I would ask the Clerk to please include this correspondence in the agenda material for the next consideration of this matter at Council or committee. Thank you.]

I am writing about the prospective forcible dispossession and forcible population transfer that Hamilton Justice informs us is planned by City staff for the Hamiltonians currently living near the FirstOntario Centre and along Ferguson Street.

This would be unconscionable. Forcible population transfer is well recognized as a crime against humanity when done in wartime, as recognized by Article 49 of the *Fourth Geneva Convention*.

This deliberate failure of policy lies at the feet of you as Council, who must not shirk your moral duty to defend the lives of people who are without other homes by deliberate policy, of your government and others.

I would urge Council to cleave to the following principles in taking action to protect and assist our fellow city residents:

- \* Hamilton should not forcibly dismantle the camps of Hamiltonians sheltering together for protection
- \* The movement of Hamiltonians from encampments must be accompanied by a material offer of housing
- \* Persons currently homeless or at risk of violence should receive placement priority
- \* Hamilton should not move Hamiltonians from their encampments unless a balanced assessments of needs has been made
- \* Access barriers to temporary or permanent shelter should be removed
- \* Hamilton should designate areas of publicly owned land for people to shelter together or separately as they wish
- \* Hamilton should allow private landowners to obtain permits without unnecessary barriers or time cost to allow people to shelter there, together or separately

Please act to protect our people. We are all we've got.

May the fates see you all kept as safe as they,

Craig Burley

--

Craig Burley

Barrister & Solicitor