

Pilon, Janet

Subject: My concerns regarding the dismantling of homeless encampments

From: **Michael Dennis**

Date: Wed, Jul 29, 2020 at 2:19 PM

Subject: My concerns regarding the dismantling of homeless encampments

To: <maureen.wilson@hamilton.ca>

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

Hello Councillor Wilson,

I am a first year medical student at McMaster University. I find it very concerning that the city I am studying in is planning on dismantling the encampments of its most vulnerable residents without thorough consultation with all stakeholders (including the homeless). I, alongside many medical students, echo the demands made by HAMSMaRT and Keeping Six:

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 structure

I have cc'd these organizations as well.

Sincerely,
Michael Dennis