

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Homeless Encampments in Hamilton

From: **Sureka Pavalagantharajah**

Date: Wed, Jul 29, 2020 at 2:37 PM

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To: <jason.farr@hamilton.ca>

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

Hello Councillor Farr,

I hope this email finds you well! My name is Sureka Pavalagantharajah and I am a medical student at McMaster University who has lived in Hamilton for the past few years. I recently heard of the plan for the city to dismantle the homeless encampments and would urge the councillors to reconsider. These encampments are important, not just for the physical health and well-being of those residing within them but also to deter feelings of self-isolation within the Hamilton community. The following are asks from a few Hamilton organizations that I think are extremely important for this city to consider and take action on:

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

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sureka Pavalagantharajah