

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Address the needs of homeless in Hamilton

From: Meaghan Ross

Sent: August 8, 2020 1:30 PM

To: Wilson, Maureen <Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca>

Cc: info@keepingsix.ca; clerk@hamilton.ca; info@hamsmart.ca

Subject: Address the needs of homeless in Hamilton

Dear Councillor Wilson,

I'm emailing in support of the requests being made by Keeping Six, who've been working with folks experiencing homelessness in Hamilton. Please work to ensure that City Council meets these requests so urgently needed.

Specifically:

1. Stop ticketing people who are homeless.
2. Work to quickly open more washrooms, showers, and physical spaces for people to safely be throughout downtown and east Hamilton.
3. Ensure that people have adequate access to potable water.
4. Take a housing first approach to helping people access non-congregate housing options.
5. Enact a moratorium on clearing encampments on public lands as per available public health guidance.
6.
 - a. The City not dismantle homeless encampments.
 - b. The City provide interim and permanent housing for encampment residents with necessary supports.
 - c. The City prioritize individuals experiencing homelessness for urgent housing placement.
 - d. The City engage encampment residents in assessing their needs prior to dismantling.
 - e. The City remove barriers in shelters and hotels in order to accommodate the individual needs of encampment residents.
 - f. The City allow for sanctioned encampment sites and/or designate specific parks/public lands where individuals are allowed to set up tents/temporary structures.
 - g. The City allow for a streamlined, low-barrier, accessible process of issuing permits allowing for tents and temporary structures.

Take care, Meaghan